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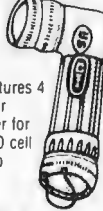


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Sizes - 6 7/8 to 7 3/4

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- Flap Under Zipper to Prevent 'Cold Spots'
- Zippered Sleeve Pocket with Pencil Holder

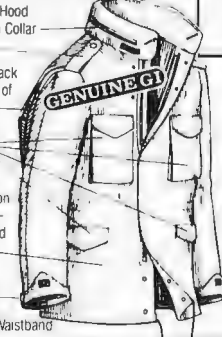


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Choose Color - Black or Olive Drab (OD) Green \$6.00 each.

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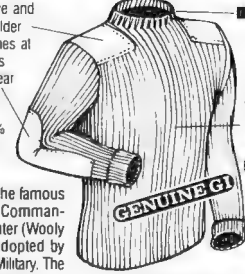
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Choose: Olive Drab (OD) Green Crewneck (USMC approved); Black V-Neck with epaulets and name plate area on breast (US Army approved); Black Crewneck (no epaulets or nameplate area); Camouflage Crewneck; Tan Crewneck; Maroon Crewneck.

Commando Sweater - Commercially made

- patterned after the GI ones, these are commercially made in easy care 100% acrylic. Although they are copies, they are constructed surprisingly true to the all wool ones, complete with sleeve and shoulder patches. Choose between: Olive Drab (OD) Green or Black. Specify Size: S, M, L, XL \$22.75/each.

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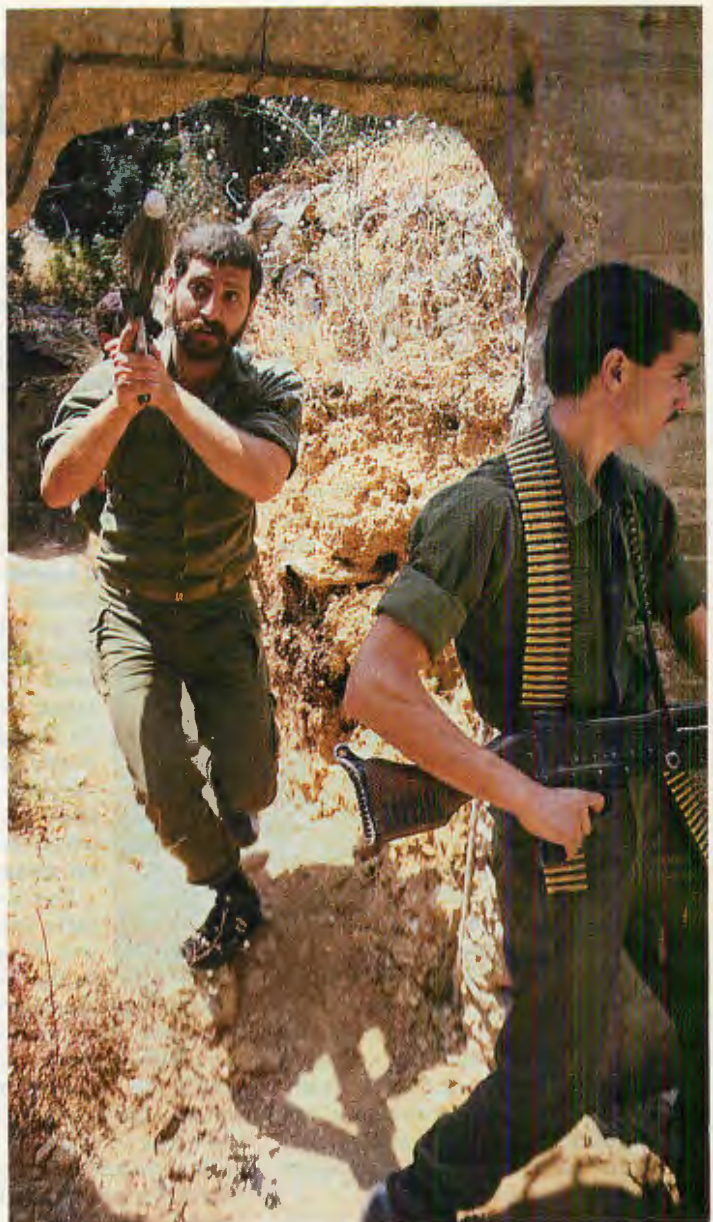
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COVER: Bullets, bombs and sandbags have become a way of life for the people of Beirut, Lebanon. Trenches snake through the Green Line, a devastated no-man's land that divides Christian east Beirut from Muslim west Beirut. Militiamen from the Lebanese Forces man this line on the Christian side, hoping to keep the war away from the civilians who try to carry on with their lives in the midst of a war zone. SOF's coverage of this never-ending struggle begins on page 54. Photo: Dale Andradé

Bulletin Board 4

Belgian mercs killed

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

WHILE protesters mount a non-stop vigil at the South African Embassy in Washington, the embassies of the real villains, the Soviet Union and its pawns, go unnoticed. Once again, the American public and press have picked the easy target to flog.

Let's face it, Pretoria is the center of an outdated system that relies on the subjugation of the majority by the minority. It's a bad system and it should be flung onto the trash heap with all the other outdated political systems. But why pick only on South Africa? Let's be fair. The African continent is a real hell-hole with plenty of barbaric governments to choose from. Few countries in Africa allow blacks to vote; there simply is no vote. Since 1971, Uganda has killed more than half a million political prisoners, Ghana and the Ivory Coast kicked some 500,000 "aliens" out of their countries, and Ethiopia routinely tortures those who speak out against the government, that according to Amnesty International.

The list goes on and South Africa is near the bottom. Yet the Left continues to call South Africa the most immoral regime known to

man. Surely they don't want to treat South Africa differently than other totalitarian regimes in Africa because they expect greater virtue from white people than from black people.

Also compare the plight of South Africa with that of another human rights offender—the Soviet Union. Thirty million Soviet citizens have been killed by their own government, several countries have been invaded and political dissidents have been placed under arrest or sent to insane asylums. But the Soviets do it right. They have every intention of staying in power, so they go all the way when cracking down on dissent.



For example, Pretoria imprisoned Nelson Mandela for life, so that he can become a living legend and a focus for world attention. Moscow would probably have killed him, so his only legacy would be in memory. His death would also serve as a reminder of the price of dissent.

The mindless protest against South Africa clearly illustrates the thinking of liberals in America. They clamor at the inconsistencies

Continued on page 99

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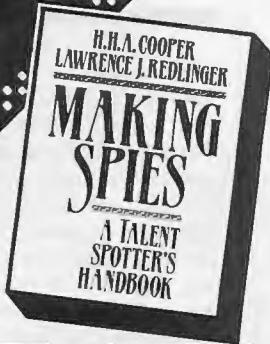
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by H.H.A. Cooper and Lawrence J. Redlinger

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COAL WAR CORRECTION...

In the article "Guerrilla War in the Hills: Mercs Come to Appalachia" (September SOF), three corrections are in order. First, the assault rifles carried by security guards were incorrectly identified. The weapons were AR-15s. Second, guards during the strike were paid \$125 per day, \$10 more than reported. And third, according to one guard at the mine in Sidney, Kentucky, the countersniping consultant there advised the coal company *against* installing a sniper nest atop the coal tippie because vibrations from equipment in the structure would make target acquisition more difficult.

As to a complaint that Vance International was not afforded the chance for fair comment: *Soldier of Fortune* requested on three separate occasions interviews with authorized Vance management personnel. All SOF requests to provide the opportunity to confirm or deny information, or to discuss potentially sensitive aspects of the story, were denied.

With the exception of the above three corrections, SOF stands by its story.

BULLETIN BOARD



BELGIAN MERCS KILLED...

Four Belgians fighting with the *mujahideen* were killed in battle by Soviet troops, according to the 28 June issue of *Gazet Van Antwerpen*, a major Flemish daily. Their names surfaced two months after their deaths when their relatives in Belgium were notified.

The same story reported that "an American mercenary magazine has been publishing calls for years to financially support . . . the Afghan resistance fighters. . . A team of experts (put together) by this mercenary magazine has been active for the past few years . . . and instructs the guerrillas in how to use modern weapons."

The Belgian newspaper also stated that monetary donations are used to buy guns and ammunition for various relief projects. If that article was pointing a finger at SOF, they missed the mark. Our efforts only provide non-lethal assistance. Needed items for Central America include boots, boot socks, web gear, ponchos, first aid kits, military clothing (small and medium sizes only,) compasses, etc. The Afghans need metal detectors, flak jackets and money. Monetary contributions are always welcome. Support the anti-communist movement of your choice: **Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund**, or the **El Salvador/Nicaragua Defense Fund**. The address is: **P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306**.

Contributions of medical supplies and equipment, as well as money (all tax deductible), to help in Central Asia and Central America should be sent to: **Refugee Relief International, Inc., P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306**.

JOIN JFK SF MUSEUM...

The JFK Special Warfare Museum, set up to preserve and present the unique history and evolution of Special Forces, is a nonprofit organization surviving largely through the generosity of supporters. SOF readers may become museum members by making tax deductible contributions to: **JFK Special Warfare Museum, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 70060, Ft. Bragg, NC 28307-5000**. The museum, which has undergone remodeling and organized a traveling exhibit, also needs artifacts concerning the following: UN Partisan Force, Early 77th and 10th SFG(A), OSS Det. 101, OSS Jedburgh, OSS OG Teams, Alamo Scouts, Korea- and Vietnam-era U.S. Rangers and psyops material from Korea and Vietnam.



HONOR ROLL...

El Salvador/Nicaragua Defense Fund contributors:

Airborne Pawn & Trading, Gino Mancuso, Paul Harri, Richard C. Lewis, Leslie D. Williams, Charles Rine, Tom Smith, H.G. Beverage Jr., Joe Petta, Thomas R. McCabe, B.J. Lundberg, The 101st Abn. soldiers who lost their lives trying to keep peace in the Sinai.

Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund:
Airborne Pawn & Trading.

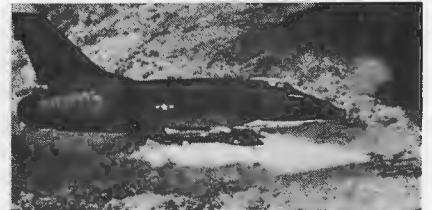
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Narrated by Walter Cronkite

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PLOTTING COUP?...

The Beirut daily *an-Nahar* charges that the United States is aiding an alleged plot to overthrow South Yemen's pro-Soviet regime. Key players, according to the newspaper, are President Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen and Ali Nasser Mohammed, South Yemen's former president. Mohammed fled to North Yemen after a bloody January coup in which Haider abu-Bakr Attas declared himself president of the Arab world's only avowedly Marxist government.

Kheirallah Kheirallah, Arab affairs editor for *an-Nahar*, reported that U.S. Vice President George Bush made an offer of U.S. assistance in a coup when Bush visited North Yemen's capital of Sana on 11 April. He reportedly met with several top officials of North Yemen and Mohammed's deposed government, as well as the "head of Saudi Arabia's secret service," who was not named. Although Mohammed is himself a dedicated Marxist, he is angered by Soviet support of the coup against him.

If North Yemen is helping Mohammed plot a coup — with or without U.S. assistance — it is interesting that Presidents Saleh and Attas met in Tripoli on 1 July at the invitation of Muammar Khadafi to discuss their differences. It was the first meeting of the leaders of the two Yemens since the January coup. Their meeting was described by the radical Arab press as "friendly."



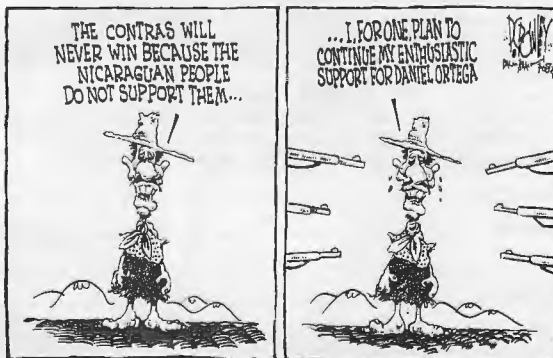
Dr. de Weldon also designed the Marine Corps Memorial.

KOREAN WAR STATUE...

Sculptor Felix de Weldon, designer of the famed Iwo Jima monument near the Pentagon, has been commissioned to create a memorial to the United Nations allies of the Korean War. The Chosin Few, survivors of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, announced a \$5 million fund-raising drive to make the international war memorial a reality. General Raymond Davis, USMC (ret.), a Congressional Medal of Honor winner, is international campaign chairman and Philadelphia insurance executive Charles McCarren is general chairman.

The statue will be as tall as the Iwo Jima statue and portray 15 soldiers of all services and races, including ROK servicemen. It is believed this will be the first time an Asian has been portrayed in a U.S. war memorial. Tentative dedication is set for December 1988. A site in the nation's capital was rejected because it already contains so many monuments (111 at last count.) Several southern California sites are being studied "because it's the last U.S. soil seen by many of our men who never came home," said McCarren.

The three-year war claimed 54,246 American lives; 8,177 U.S. servicemen are still listed as MIA and another 389 as POWs. Private and corporate contributions are being solicited in the United States and South Korea. For further information, call one of the following: **Charles McCarren in Philadelphia, (215)763-9070/636-4212; Dr. Felix de Weldon in Newport, Rhode Island, (401)847-4150; or Frank Kerr in Hull, Massachusetts, (617)925-1529.**



SOVIET S.A.L.T. SHAKER...

While the Soviet Union continues to call for reductions in nuclear and chemical weapons, it continues to build them at an unprecedented rate. For instance, the Kremlin has been calling for a global ban on all chemical weapons since 1984. Yet its development and production capability for chemical weapons at the enormous Sikhany Chemical Warfare Proving Ground has tripled since 1970. The facility has been in operation since the 1920s and is probably the largest chemical warfare plant in the world.



The Soviets have been using chemical and toxin weapons in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia in the last few years, all in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocols and the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, both of which they signed. The Kremlin also has provided these weapons to other communist countries. This type of behavior should have had some bearing on strategic arms limitations talks in the past. We can only hope U.S. negotiators will take notice in the future.

SPECIAL OPS AGENCY PROPOSED...

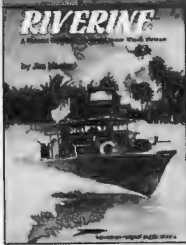
A proposal to create a separate defense agency for special warfare units has the backing the House Armed Services Committee. The Pentagon oversight panel voted to create a new defense agency for

Continued on page 94

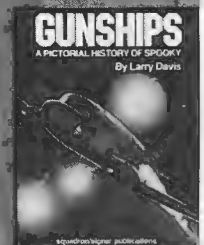
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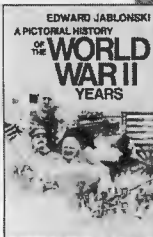
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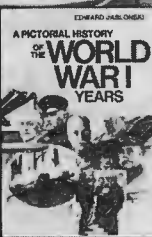
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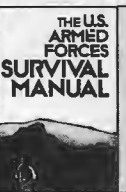
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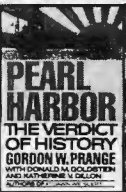
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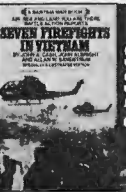
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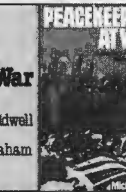
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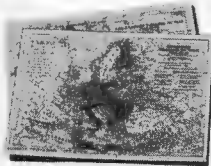
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LIBYA'S TERROR NETWORK...

Sirs:

As an adjunct instructor who teaches international terrorism at a good-sized university, as well as being a terrorism consultant, I wish to heartily compliment SOF and the reporters who contributed to the August 1986 Libya Special. The data presented on both Khadafi and Jalloud was extremely accurate and to the point.

Lawrence J.
Martines
Flagstaff, Arizona

Governments, as with people, can be known by their friends. The ties between rulers of Nicaragua and Libya were reaffirmed when Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega communicated with Libya's Muammar Khadafi. "My brother, given the brutal terrorist action launched by the U.S. government against the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, I wish to send sentiments and solidarity from the FSLN National Directorate and the Nicaraguan people and government..."

We must protect the peace and security of this hemisphere.

D.L. Jones
Norfolk, Virginia



FLAK



HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETS...

Sirs:

Over the years we've seen increasing participation and a good many heartwarming expressions of support by women on the recognition of Vietnam veterans. Well, I'm one who can remember generous doses of TLC after having been "ventilated" in Vietnam. Let's have an exchange of ideas on how to get behind the women's monument as a means of reciprocation.

Mel Dodge
Willows, California

Those interested in purchasing a miniature replica of the intended statue honoring women Vietnam vets, or in making contributions to the fund should contact: The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Dept. SOF, 511 11th Ave. South, Box 45, Minneapolis, MN 55415.



MORE ON MIAs...

Sirs:

It was with great interest that I read "Tale of Two Cities" in the August '86 issue. In it, Don Kirk indicated that he was provided with imprints of three dog tags by a young man whom he met in Giural's coffee shop. The names were: Strouse, Howard D.; Clements, Richard L.; and Rangelhoff, Roger A. Mr. Kirk submitted this information to an Army officer at JCRC and indicated that no reply has yet been received. I took it upon myself to respond to his inquiry. My review of the alphabetical computer printout of American servicemen missing in action in Southeast Asia failed to disclose the names of any of the above individuals. But a book containing the names of Americans listed on the Wall indicated that Howard D. Strouse was a Marine Corps master sergeant who died on 6 October 1966. Although the names of the other two servicemen did not appear, there was a Richard B. Clements who was an Army private first class who died in October 1968.

I hope this data is of help to you as I wouldn't want Tadao Furue to match up the dog tags with pig bones and declare dead, live persons who had returned.

John J. Molloy, Jr.
Executive Director
The Foundation for the
Release of American POWs
Remaining in Southeast
Asia and for the
Repatriation of Amerasian
Children
P.O. Box 339
Islip Terrace, NY 11752

TARGETING KHADAFI...

Sirs:

Having just received the June '86 issue, what can I say other than full marks again. I enjoyed shooting Khadafi. My only regret is that the bodyline was missing. But it relieved the frustration of not being able to do it properly.

Derek R. Packham
Goose Green, Falkland
Islands

Continued on page 94

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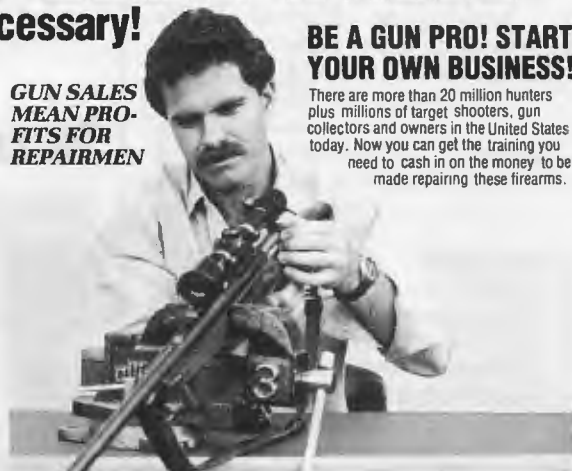
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IT was the fall of 1984, and while I was training M60 machine-gun crews of the 3rd Infantry Brigade in San Miguel, I heard rumors of defective 5.56x45mm and 7.62x51mm NATO ammunition issued to the Salvadoran troops. The ammunition, which carried a headstamp at that time unknown to me — "AAC 83" — was supposedly popping primers and jamming weapons. In addition, the 7.62x51mm cartridges were stamped with the NATO cross in circle. Where did it come from?

This ammunition is starting to appear in small quantities at local U.S. gun shows. When I finally examined specimens in both calibers, its origin was immediately apparent.

All of the 7.62mm ammunition was belted in links marked "M 13 J" with the NATO cross in circle and packed in U.S.-made .30-cal. ammo cans marked "200 CARTRIDGES 7.62 MM M18 CARTONS 1 M62-4 M80 LC-83F600L340 A131." Obviously a further subterfuge, this information was of no use in determining the ammunitions' origin. The 5.56mm cartridges, however, were all packed in interesting 20-round, unmarked, pale pink cartons. But the dead giveaway in both calibers was a brilliant orange-red primer annulus, smeared over the primer as well. That is distinctive of only one country: Yugoslavia. This ammunition was produced at either the Igman arsenal in Konjice or the Prvi Partizan arsenal in Titovo Uzice and obtained from the Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. But by whom and under what circumstances? Now that the dust has finally settled on this unsavory affair, its tale of intrigue and deception can be told.

In the summer of 1983, the government of El Salvador, frustrated by the U.S. military bureaucracy — which takes seemingly forever to move supplies into the pipeline — signed a contract with Nordac Manufacturing Corporation of Fredericksburg, Virginia, for 19 million rounds of small arms ammunition for a total price of \$4.7 million. Nordac's bid included 15 million rounds of 5.56mm and four million rounds of 7.62mm, together with 15,000 ponchos, 21,000 pairs of combat boots, 10,000 assault packs and 6,000 pairs of LBE suspenders. A price quotation for the ammunition from Winchester was \$1 million lower, but it apparently did not include transportation costs or the ancillary supplies. As U.S. foreign military sales funds were used, the contract signed on 15 July 1983 stipulated that "the goods shall be manufactured in the United States of America."



FULL AUTO

by Peter G. Kokalis

Nordac's Ammo Shell Game



5.56x45mm NATO cartridge with counterfeit 'AAC 83' headstamp on top of linked belt of 7.62x51mm ammunition with similar counterfeit headstamp that includes the NATO cross in circle.

Nordac first purchased about one million rounds of Winchester ammunition from retail sources, and on 15 September 1983 obtained a license from the State Department's Office of Munitions Control to export ammunition to El Salvador. On this license Nordac reported the manufacturer to be Winchester.

Yugoslavia accommodated the scam by headstamping the cartridges with "AAC 83" (American Armaments Corporation, 1983 — a Nordac subsidiary). In this instance the miscreants paid for their maleficence. The charade was exposed, Nordac went belly up, and their assets were sold at a government auction.

But the accusation lingers that the ammunition was defective. Was it true? Not at all. In both calibers the cases were brass; boxer primed in 5.56mm and Berdan primed in 7.62mm. The propellant, in both instances, was of the extruded IMR type, very similar in appearance to IMR 4895. Charge weights were 43.5 grains in 7.62mm and 26.2 grains in 5.56mm (26.8 grains of 4895 will push a 55-grain bullet out of the muzzle at 3,200 fps). The 7.62mm projectile was a 145-grain FMJ boattail with a lead core, while the 5.56mm bullet was of the M193 configuration.

When chronographed, the 5.56mm ammunition averaged 3,209 fps with a standard deviation of only 25 fps. At 100 meters, five-round groups consistently measured 2.5 MOA through an M16A1 rifle in new condition. This performance level matches and exceeds

that of PMC, IMI and Lake City Arsenal ammunition. I fired 400 rounds of the 5.56mm ball in El Salvador and another 200 rounds back in the United States. There were no stoppages of any kind. I pumped several hundred rounds of the linked 7.62mm ball through a relatively pristine M60 GPMG in a Salvadoran "A" camp near the Honduras border (see SOF, "When Shadows Shoot Back," July '85), again without malfunctions.

Yugoslavian weaponry and munitions are no novelty in El Salvador. The Salvadoran army employs both the Yugoslavian 120mm UBM 52 mortar and the 20mm M-55 anti-aircraft gun (in essence three Hispano-Suiza HSS-804 20mm guns mounted on the HSS 630-3 towed carriage) for perimeter defense at Ilopango Air Base, along with the necessary Yugoslavian ammunition for these weapons.

No doubt there was chicanery in the procurement of this 5.56mm and 7.62mm ammunition in clear violation of Foreign Military Sales Fund regulations. However, the quality of the merchandise was above reproach.

The United States government was not amused, however, and brought charges of misappropriation of foreign military sales funds against Nordac Manufacturing Corporation president John P. Straiton. Twenty-five other charges were dropped in exchange for Straiton's testimony against his ex-wife Darlene Straiton, a former vice president and secretary of Nordac, and John P. Fodor, an American living in El Salvador.

John Straiton has been convicted and is scheduled to be sentenced later this year. Perhaps the next time around, private arms contractors will pay attention to the law, no matter how good their ammo proves to be. ☒

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U.S. ARMY WWII MUSSETTE BAG, O.G. \$11
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Issued to every soldier in WWII for his/her personal effects. Incl. adj. shoulder strap.

THOMPSON MAGAZINE POUCH, NEW \$11
10-1089US

As issued to the U.S. Marine Corp in 1944 (also marked USMC 1944) for the .45 Thompson submachine gun. Pouch holds 3 30-round magazines.

G.I. M1 CARBINE POUCH, USED \$3
10-1079US

Issued during WWII for the 30-cal. M1 carbine for attachment to pistol belt, but was commonly attached to the stock. Pouch holds 2 15-round magazines.

U.S. ARMY AMMO POUCH BELT, NEW \$22
10-1103US

Issued during WWII & the Korean War for the 30-cal. M1 Carbine rifle as a belt to hold 10 8-round clip magazines as well as a pistol or other attachments.

U.S. ARMY (BAR) MAGAZINE BELT, NEW \$16
10-1161US

Issued during WWII (marked w/ WWII mfg & detail for the Browning auto. rifle as a belt to hold 12 20-round magazines as well as a pistol or other attachments.

U.S. ARMY WWII (BAR) POUCH BELT \$23
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SHOT

PLEASE UNLOAD GUN AND REMOVE SKI MASK BEFORE ENTERING 09-307

ANYONE FOUND HERE AT NIGHT WILL BE FOUND HERE IN THE MORNINGS 09-308

NOTICE 09-354

DEATH ZONE

FORGET YOUR LIFE 09-310

ABANDON YOUR LIFE! 09-311

EVER BEEN IN THE DOC BEHIND THE PRISON? 09-312

ROB SOMEONE ELSE 09-313

CRIMINALS BEWARE! NO PRISONERS TAKEN 09-314

CRIMINALS BEWARE! NO PRISONERS TAKEN 09-315

CRIMINALS BEWARE 09-316

CRIMINALS BEWARE! NO PRISONERS TAKEN 09-317

CRIMINALS BEWARE! NO PRISONERS TAKEN 09-318

WE SHOOT BACK! 09-319

WE KILL FOR FUN! 09-320

WE KILL FOR FUN! 09-341

FACE ME 09-342

FACE ME 09-343

FACE ME 09-344

Don't mess with FATE 09-345

WARNING! ... 09-346

TRESPASSERS WILL BE VIOLATED 09-347

IF YOU COME THROUGH THIS DOOR YOU WILL BE KILLED 09-348

SI VIENS POR STA PRUETA TE MATO 09-349

The Great Equalizer 09-350

TRESPASSERS WILL BE SHOT 09-351

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EXPECT NO MERCY 09-353

GERMAN ARMY SNOW CAMO HELMET \$37
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ENGLISH COMMANDO WIRE CUTTERS \$16
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For martial arts fans. Made of steel with 3 to 12 points. Accuracy can be obtained with practice.

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ENGLISH SAS BERET CREST, NEW \$6
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Beret crest issued to all English troops who were jump qualified. WWII issue.

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U.S. ARMY CARLISLE BANDAGE, SMALL \$2
10-1211US

Issued to each infantryman for first-aid pouch during WWII. In original was sealed boxes.

U.S. WWII FIRST-AID POUCH, NEW \$3
10-1217US

Issued to each infantryman to carry Carlsle bandage on pistol or cartridge belt.

U.S. ARMY PICKMATIC COVERS, NEW \$2
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Issued during WWII to hold the Pickmatic tool broken down into head & handle & provide attachment to the pistol or cartridge belt.

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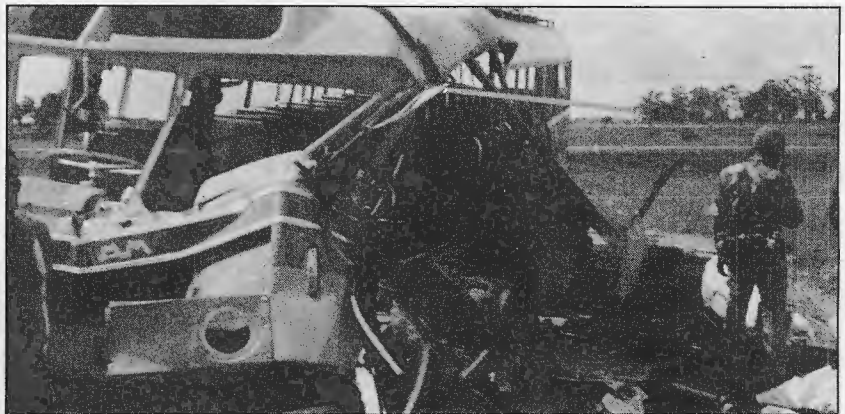
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I WAS THERE

by D.C. Bennett

Mugabe's Bloody Christmas Gift



Intimidation of black voters in what was then Rhodesia was a popular tactic of Mugabe's terrorist army. It got the votes.

A muffled explosion raised my brandy-soaked brain to consciousness. It was 0710 Christmas morning and I was lying in the bunkhouse of the Enterprise ACC (Area Coordinating Committee, a farmer's self-defense organization) just outside Salisbury, Rhodesia.

I was between jobs, and had taken temporary employment as a "bright light" (ranch security) guard over the holiday period. The Enterprise ACC was a curious organization — it provided facilities for a BSAP (British South Africa Police) outpost, and the bunkhouse for its bright lights at the Enterprise Country Club. The BSAP member-in-charge served as evening bartender for the club. The bright lights and BSAP cops on call-up probably spent half their pay checks at the bar. Rhodesian farmers are nothing if not shrewd.

On Christmas Eve the question of whether the terrorists would respect the recently proclaimed cease-fire was the subject of much discussion at the bar. Another topic of great interest was emergency medical treatment for trauma cases.

Christmas morning proved the timeliness of our discussion on both counts. The explosion that woke me was an anti-tank land mine planted at the entrance to a Black African township. There would be many

trauma cases to handle in the next 90 minutes.

The four-man police stick, along with a handful of bright lights, left the country club five minutes later. Having foolishly identified myself as an ex-U.S. Navy gunner's mate, I had the privilege of lugging the MAG 7.62mm machine gun. A tense 10-minute ride on a mine-protected Puma truck brought us to the African township.

A hideous scene awaited us. An African passenger bus had detonated the anti-tank land mine with its left front wheel, killing the driver immediately. A newspaper boy, both legs gone and lower torso ravaged, expired soon after our arrival. Bundles of bloody newspapers littered the area.

Our reaction stick debussed into a 360-degree perimeter while a fire team did a quick sweep of a possible ambush site. Then all hands fell to the task of first aid. When the ambulances arrived 30 minutes later, there were three dead, one missing a leg, two missing both legs, and four others seriously wounded.

The message of Mugabe's terrorist army was clear: "Either we win the election, or the destruction will continue." The land mine was deliberately placed in the Black African township to intimidate black voters. Despite the so-called cease-fire, the violence continued up to the day of the national elections. . . . The outcome was never in doubt.

As I stood wiping the gore from my hands, a departing ambulance attendant called back: "Merry Christmas Yank!" ☒

Presenting

THE VIETNAM WAR FIGHTING KNIFE COLLECTION

*An important symbol of gallantry by which patriotic Americans
can remember our fight for the preservation of Freedom. . .*



"I am fighting to protect and maintain what I believe in—a democratic society . . . I want people to hold their heads up high and be proud of me for the job I did."

The deadliest, rarest and most valuable knife of the Vietnam War. Now available for the first time since the war and for the first time ever as a collector's limited edition.

A 19-year-old PFC wrote these lines to his mother nearly twenty years ago to express why so many Americans went to Vietnam. He never came home. He gave his life on 14 February 1966 to protect and maintain freedom and democracy in the fight against communism.

You—or your father, brother, cousin, friend or neighbor—also may have served in Vietnam, along with two and a half million other Americans, in our nation's longest war.

Now, nearly twenty years after the main buildup of American forces, The American Historical Foundation is proud to announce The Vietnam War Fighting Knife Collection. It allows you to remember, and in so doing, to honor, these unsung American heroes. These men and women served, not for fame, reward or ambition, but out of a sense of duty. They did what our nation asked, and they did it well.

This commemorative tribute is a lasting, tangible symbol by which patriotic Americans—present and future—can remember the noble motivations and the American spirit that caused our countrymen to put their lives on the line.

Deadliest, Rarest and Most Valuable

A special military fighting knife which embodies the spirit of jungle combat was selected for this tribute. The knife selected for this Collection is the *deadliest, rarest and most valuable* edged weapon of the Vietnam War. Experts agree it will be highly sought after by collectors.

It was created especially for MACV-SOG, who fought the mysterious, highly classified, clandestine war throughout Southeast Asia. Their "Special Operations" missions, veiled in secrecy, required "sterile" equipment that was deniable. This 11" fighting knife was designed for them. Called the "SOG Bowie", and sometimes "Special Forces Bowie", it has become one of the top two or three military knives, by value, in American history. In average condition they bring \$750 to \$1,000 each. Any collection of exotic military fighting knives is incomplete without one. This is an opportunity to own one for only a fraction of the price of an original.

Because of the importance and value of this knife, and because it was the only fighting knife issued to troops in all four military service branches in Vietnam (SOG was a joint service operation), we selected it for The Vietnam War Fighting Knife Collection.

First Time Since 'Nam

This is the *first* time since the Vietnam War that this knife has been made, and it's the *first* time it has ever been made in deluxe, presentation grade. Each is benchmarked in the United States by the Murphy Combat Knife Company, established in 1938 and well known for supplying knives to

American military men.

The first knife in the series honors the Americans who served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. The distinctive, which is etched and selectively plated with genuine 24-karat gold across the mirror-polished steel blade, was created by B. J. Weber, a two-tour U.S. Army Ranger Vietnam Veteran. It permanently records an airmobile assault from UH1 Huey "Slicks" of a VC-held "ville". Skytroopers of this infantry unit fire and maneuver with their M16 rifles, M79 grenade launchers and M60 machine guns against "Charlie", beneath a beribboned inscription.

The gold-plated, cloisonne-enamel symbol of the U.S. Army proudly forms the focal point of the brown, polished, deluxe-leather grip, which is mounted with a mirror-polished crossguard, butt and slotted top nut, all richly plated with 24-karat gold for lasting beauty and value.

24-Karat Gold—Yet Battleworthy

But the beauty isn't just skin deep. This fighting knife is as battleworthy as any that ever saw combat. The distinctive, 6¼" blade is ground with two, unusual, crescent-shaped contours. A full quarter-inch thick, the blade is hardened and tempered of the finest 440-series stainless steel—strong enough to pierce a car door. For extra strength, the thick tang runs the full length of the grip, which is frazed with finger grooves to prevent slipping in the hand in combat. It is even fitted with a black, 550 P-cord wrist thong.

To display your knife, a high-quality, furniture-finished solid mahogany display case is available as an option. Lined with Vietnam-era woodland leaf-pattern camouflage, it measures 3" x 6" x 14" and is mounted with brass hardware and a section of Vietnam Service ribbon.

Limited Numbered Edition of 2500

Only 2500 of each knife is being made—that's only one knife for every one thousand Americans who served, to assure importance and value as a collectible. The limited edition serial number is engraved on the reverse of each blade, inscribed on the Certificate of Authenticity and registered with The American Historical Foundation. For an additional \$19, we will personalize the knife for you by engraving your name, service serial number, dates, etc. on the blade reverse.

As an added advantage, you are guaranteed the opportunity, *without obligation*, to reserve subsequent knives in this series with the same serial number—so you can systematically acquire a complete *matched set*. These tributes—one to the Marine Corps, one to the Air Force and one to the Navy—will be announced to you privately, one knife at a time, in the months ahead. Or, you can sign up for the others now. Each

immortalizes a different combat scene, gold etched on the blade. And the grip medallion, wrist thong color and grip end spacer colors are appropriate to the service branch honored.

To further enhance your expertise in this field, you will also be made a member of The American Historical Foundation and receive information concerning military history and the history, care, display and collecting of knives, swords, and militaria.

How to Reserve: Satisfaction Guaranteed

This is available only through The American Historical Foundation. You may write, call, personally visit or use the reservation form below. Reservations will be acknowledged immediately.

Whether or not you or a member of your family served in Vietnam, your ownership and display of The Vietnam War Fighting Knife Collection will show that you are proud of the Americans who answered the call to duty in the defense of freedom in Southeast Asia.

Prompt action is suggested to secure the lowest serial numbers and to assure that you receive one of these collector-grade, battleworthy knives, while they are available in this limited edition.

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Yes, I wish to reserve each of the following Vietnam War Fighting Knives with 24-karat gold plating. No shipping charges. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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 _____ Marine Corps _____ Air Force

My deposit (or credit card authorization) of \$45 is enclosed. Please
 charge or invoice the balance due per Knife . . .
 in two equal monthly payments.
 in full.

Please also send the solid mahogany display case, at \$29 each.
 My payment in full is enclosed (\$195 per Knife; display case, add \$29).
 Send the Engraving Form so my knife can be personalized, at \$19.

Name

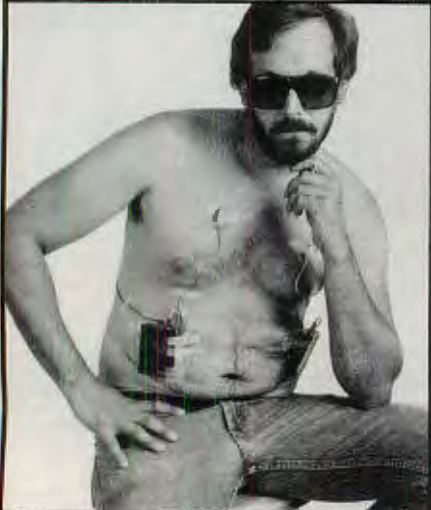
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For Visa, MasterCard or American Express, please send account number, expiration date and signature. Virginia residents add tax.

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This man can be dangerous to your health!



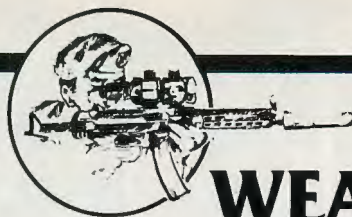
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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

by Bob McKenna

SAS Knock-Knocks & Bunker Bombs

RAMBANAYI terrorist staging camp in Mozambique near the Rhodesian border was quiet. The sleeping occupants, sentries included, were completely unaware of the Rhodesian soldiers closing in on them in the early morning darkness. By first light the soldiers were in position on the start line 300 meters from the perimeter of the base, waiting for a preparatory mortar bombardment before beginning the assault. Precisely on time the dull thud of the first 81mm round leaving its tube four kilometers away rolled over the misty countryside, and the combined force of Rhodesian Light Infantry and Special Air Service troops taking part in the raid braced themselves.

Round on target! The rest of the mortar bombs slammed into the enemy camp and the Rhodesians advanced into the dust and smoke marking the end of the bombardment.

Rifle and machine-gun fire intensified as the disorganized terrorists tried to defend their positions, but the noise abated as the SAS swept through, killing or capturing virtually all of them. In another part of the camp complex a few hundred meters away, however, the RLI had run into problems. Unknown to the planners of the attack, Tanzanian army troops had moved into this base in Mozambique to help defend it from the inevitable Rhodesian raid. Their defenses included a series of formidable "W"-shaped bunkers with thick log and earth covers. Built for protection from air attack, these bunkers did not have firing ports but only a trap door at one end. Tanza-

nians standing in these doors killed or wounded several RLI troopers and halted the attack before going underground.

The RLI lieutenant in charge of that part of the attack directed fire onto the bunkers while his men got close enough to throw frag and white phosphorous grenades into the openings. But because of the "W" shape the soldiers inside were protected from all harmful effects. Unfortunately this was only discovered when an SAS NCO who had come over to help jumped down inside a supposedly cleared bunker and took four hits from an AK-47. The wounded NCO was extricated, and a quick pause taken to ponder the next move. One of the bunkers was destroyed with a hurriedly made satchel charge, using spare plastic explosives that had been brought along to deal with captured arms caches. That left another four bunkers to clear — and no more plastic.

Recalling the Vietnam experience and VC bunkers, a message was sent to the operation's tactical HQ across the border in Rhodesia, and within a few minutes 30 gallons of gasoline was on its way by helicopter. When it arrived, five gallons went down the hatch, a couple of tracer rounds ignited the fumes followed by a muffled "whoomf," and the bunkers were cleared of live enemy. The only problem then was trying to recover any material of interest to army intelligence out of the smoldering, smoke-filled fortifications. That proved difficult, and undoubtedly some valuable information was lost.

At the post-raid debrief, the problem of dealing with bunkers and similar structures was discussed at length. Obviously we could not expect to receive jerrycans of petrol every time we encountered an underground shelter. Besides, starting gas fires in a place that might contain explosives is not a good habit to develop. Also, the loss of intelligence material was quite serious as was the time wasted waiting for fires to go out and smoke to clear. Tear gas

EXPLOSIVE BACKGROUND

Bob McKenna served in the Rhodesian Special Air Service for 10 years. He was awarded the Silver and Bronze crosses and coveted SAS Wings on Chest for his actions against terrorist forces. Jordan now works as a defense consultant.



LIGHTWEIGHT CAMOUFLAGE BDU

NEW! OFFICIAL!

No Sweat! The New Camouflage Lightweight BDU is here. Besides being made of 100% rip-stop cotton poplin for coolness, it features a smaller collar and tabs at the shirt's waist for a trimmer fit. Traditional BDU features such as large bellow pockets and reinforcements remain the same. This is the authentic military Lightweight BDU. As usual you can count on U.S. Cavalry to offer new uniforms first, once they are officially approved for production. Please state your size from the chart below. Made in U.S.A. SF01-0795 Shirt...\$29.88 SF01-0796 Trousers \$29.88

S H I R T		Size	Chest	Your Height
B D U	XS Reg.	29-33"	67-71"	
	S Reg.	33-37"	67-71"	
	M Reg.	37-41"	67-71"	
	M Long	37-41"	71" up	
	L Reg.	41-45"	67-71"	
	L Long	41-45"	71" up	
XL Reg.	45-49"	67-71"		
P A N T S		Size	Waist	Inseam
B D U	XS Reg.	23-27"	29 1/2 - 32 1/2"	
	S Reg.	27-31"	29 1/2 - 32 1/2"	
	M Reg.	31-35"	29 1/2 - 32 1/2"	
	M Long	31-35"	32 1/2" & up	
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Pellet Feed	Gravity, 10 shot Gravity, 10 shot
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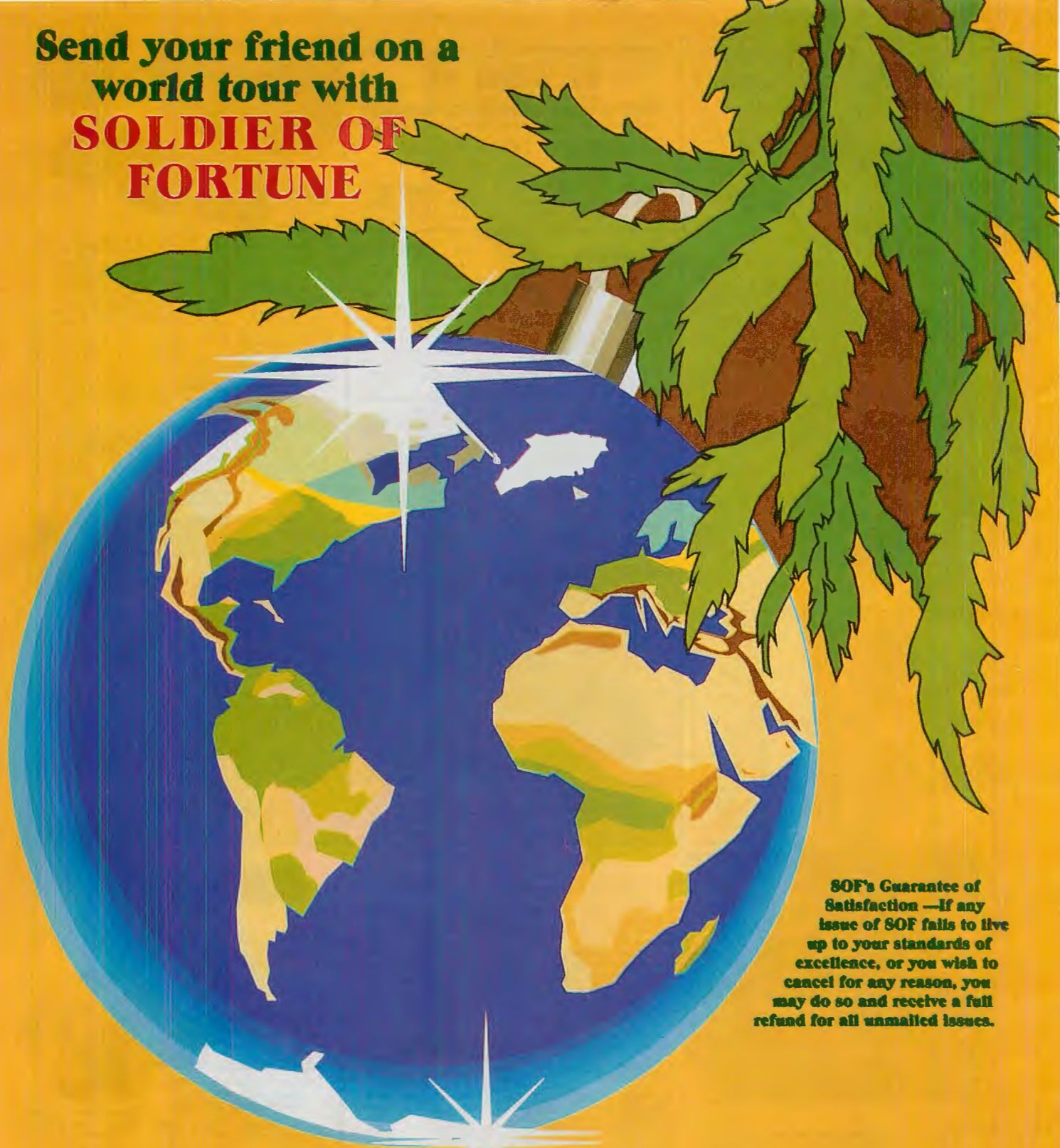
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grenades were considered but rejected because they would only be usable in limited circumstances. Satchel charges were OK, but took time to prepare and needed careful emplacement to prevent the enemy from throwing them back. What was required was a concussion charge heavy enough to affect enemy troops yet not cause severe damage to the immediate surroundings, or provoke sympathetic detonation of stored demolition supplies.

When the problem was finally defined, it was turned over to army ordnance for solution. Within a few days they produced a splendid answer which became known as the "Bunker Bomb." Weighing 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) and fused with a normal 4-5 second grenade fuse, this device was simply a large concussion grenade using plastic explosive as the charge. It was simple and effective — not only against bunkers, but caves, open trenches, buildings, vehicles, and a surprising number of other targets where a large but not devastating blast was needed. Created as a result of our experience at Rambanayi, this device was extensively used for the rest of the war.

Another custom-made charge which became part of the SAS demolitions inventory was called the "knock-knock" — a handy door opener. Since even terrorists lock their doors, sometimes a bit of extra force had to be applied prior to entry. Anyone who has tried to open locks with an assault rifle knows that it only works in the movies. Similarly, the average door does not usually respond to even the best aimed kick.

Enter the "knock-knock." About four inches long and an ounce in weight, this device worked on the shaped-charge principle to cut locks or hinges with a minimum of fuss and bother. Having decided on the door to be opened, the user merely exposed the sticky side of his "knock-knock," stuck it on or near the lock, activated the friction ignitor and stepped aside. Three seconds later, boom! No lock, no obstruction. Just the thing for surprising your associates at home.

Rhodesian ingenuity (with help from South African scientists) found a dramatic medium for expression in the development of anti-vehicle land mines. In areas of Mozambique, particularly Gaza and Tete provinces, virtually the only vehicular traffic on the roads was military. Since Rhodesia-bound terrorists made frequent use of FRELIMO (Mozambique army, or "Freddies" as the Rhodesians called them) trucks, interdiction of these roads was an important task for Rhodesian special forces.

Continued on page 84

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PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES: VIETNAM FRONT PAGES. Edited by Hal Drake. Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, Inc., Dept. SOF, 236 West 26th St., New York, NY 10001. 1986. Hardcover. \$19.95. Review by John Coleman.

MOST of us recall our time in Vietnam like an off-read chapter in a book. We can remember that one chapter with crystal clarity, but the rest of the book sometimes seems pretty vague. What happened in Vietnam during the years before and after our tours seems to pall in comparison.

Yet life went on and history was in the making, not only in Vietnam, but all across the world during the 20-plus years we meandered around Southeast Asia. That's what makes **Vietnam Front Pages** a thought-provoking and useful reference.

As the title states, this book is made up of selected front pages from the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* — often the only solid news source for service personnel in that theater — which cover the period from the fall of French-held Dien Bien Phu in 1954 to the fall of Saigon in 1975. The emphasis is, of course, on our involvement in Vietnam — particularly the headlines and “prophesies” from our country's leaders, many of which are low comedy when viewed in hindsight.

“U.S. Troops Seen Out of Viet by '65,” came the White House report in 1963; “Viet Victory Near,” says General Harkins, commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam, in 1963; “Johnson Denies Plan to Extend Vietnam War,” 1964; “Westy Charts Path to Victory in Viet,” 1967 — and so it went . . .

Senior *Pacific Stars and Stripes* staff writer Hal Drake deserves high marks for his selections in this book; the front pages he chose starkly convey, as he



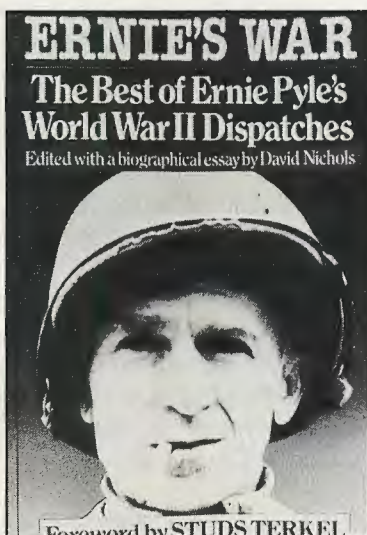
wrote, “. . . the war as it approached, as it raged, and as it waned and died.”

Whether you're a Vietnam vet looking to put your tour into some kind of perspective, or just interested in an

outstanding chronicle of the tense and turbulent decades following Korea, **Vietnam Front Pages** definitely deserves a place in your library.

ERNIE'S WAR: THE BEST OF ERNIE PYLE'S WORLD WAR II DISPATCHES. Edited with a biographical essay by David Nichols. Foreword by Studs Terkel. Random House, Dept. SOF, 201 E. 50th St., New York, NY 10022. \$19.95, hardcover. 427 pages. Review by James L. Pate

ERNIE Pyle should always be a journalistic yardstick by which war correspondence is measured, especially in this impersonal nuclear age. Granted, Pyle's reportage is from a much simpler time. Warfare's consequences as Pyle knew them before dying in battle changed astronomically at war's end, more awful and final under The Bomb



than anyone at the time imagined. Yet Pyle's penchant for ignoring the “big picture” in favor of telling a humble personal story “from a foxhole, looking up” has stood the test of time.

Now Pyle's words will touch millions of new readers. David Nichols has made available for the first time a collection of Pyle's best wartime work. The author's biography also reveals Pyle's personal inner battles over impotency and life on the road. War's carnage appalled Pyle, who was irreparably torn between preserving his alcoholic wife's fragile sanity and an unrelenting guilt he suffered whenever he left the front lines.

But Pyle's niche in the annals of war literature is assured by the personal way in which he told the timeless story

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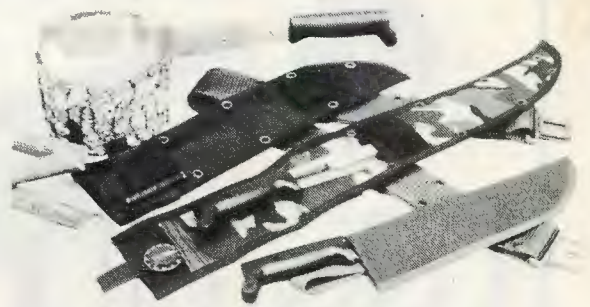
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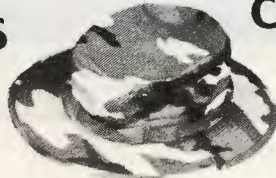
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of the combat soldier.

A narrow path comes like a ribbon over a hill miles away. . . . All along this ribbon there is now a thin line of men. For four days and nights they have fought hard, eaten little, washed none and slept hardly at all. Their nights have been violent with attack, fright, butchery, and their days sleepless and miserable with the crash of artillery. . . . Their faces are black and unshaven. They are young men, but the grime and whiskers and exhaustion make them look middle-aged. In their eyes as they pass is not hatred, not excitement, not despair, not the tonic of victory — there is just the simple expression of being here, as though they had been doing this forever, and nothing else.

Any serious student of warfare would be remiss for not having this volume in his or her library. For even in the age of total war, Pyle reminds us that in the final analysis it is individuals who die. Pyle understood so well war's awful necessity, and he artfully captured the inescapable changes it exacts from people otherwise just like the guy next door.

The most vivid change is the casual . . . manner in which they now talk about killing. They have made the psychological transition from the normal belief that taking human life is sinful, over to a new professional outlook where killing is a craft.

A Japanese bullet ended Pyle's life on Ie Shima just off Okinawa, 20 days before Germany surrendered. He knew victory was near. Found on his body was a rough draft of a column he planned to release at war's end. It stands as his personal epitaph to the awful finality of all war, yesterday, today and tomorrow:

And so it is over. . . . The day that it had so long seemed would never come has come at last. . . . It is easy to forget the dead. But there are many of the living who have had burned into their brains forever the unnatural sight of cold dead men scattered over the hill-sides and in the ditches throughout the world. Dead men by mass production — in one country after another — day after day and year after year. Dead men in winter and dead men in summer. Dead men in such familiar promiscuity that they become monotonous. Dead men in such monstrous infinity that you come almost to hate them.

These are the things that you at home need not even try to understand. To you at home they are columns of figures, or he is a near one who went away and just didn't come back. You didn't see him lying so grotesque and pasty beside the gravel road in France. We saw him, saw him by the multiple thousands. That's the difference. . . .

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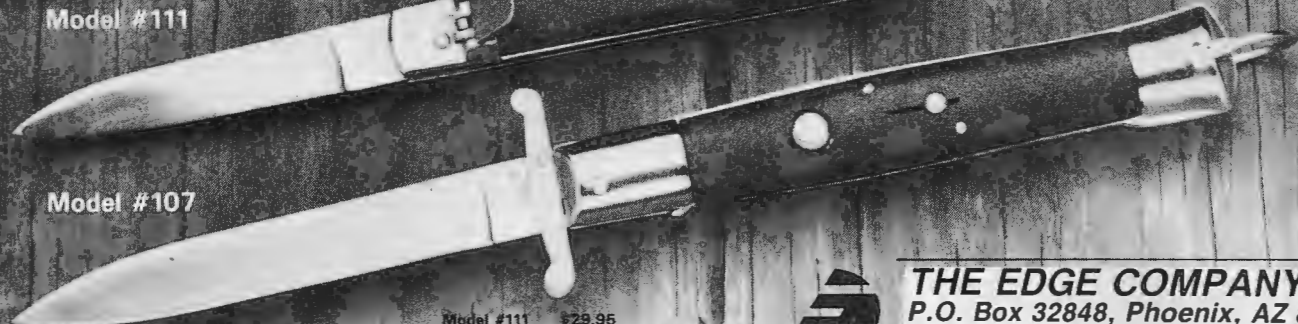


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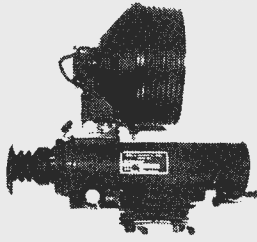
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BATTLE BLADES

by Bill Bagwell

Machete: A Tool or a Weapon?

MEN all over the Third World seem to carry machetes with the same non-chalance with which Wall Street big shots lug briefcases. These big blades serve as casual social accoutrements for the deadlocked Rastafarians of Jamaica, vital tools to African and Amazonian tribes, and are lethal weapons in the hands of many Central American guerrillas. The machete is one of the most commonly used edged tools in the world. In many primitive places, a man who walks by without one is considered less than a man.

For whatever reason you may choose to carry a machete, it's hard to beat for clearing brush and light-to-moderate chopping. This piece of cutlery enjoys widespread use because it's cheap regardless of size, it's relatively easy to manufacture and it works well in its originally intended function — clearing brush. The cheap price makes machetes an especially popular tool in depressed Third World economies.

Soldier of Fortune contacted Atlanta Cutlery (Dept. SOF, Box 839, Conyers, GA 30207) for samples of machetes commonly manufactured and used in Central America. They responded by sending three machetes from the largest knife manufacturer in Brazil — the Tramontina Company.

The largest of the three is styled after the African *panga* pattern, a 20-inch blade that widens to 3 inches and weighs 1.5 pounds. The second one is a general purpose machete, a standard 18-inch blade weighing 1 pound, 2 ounces. The third model is what Atlanta Cutlery calls their bowie-style machete. It has a 13-inch blade with a clip point and weighs 10 ounces.

All are cost effective. Consider this. The 20-inch machete sells for \$7.95, the 18-inch model will set you back \$6.50 and the 13-inch blade will nick you for all of \$4.95. In countries in which poverty is the norm, cheap blades which serve double duty as effective tools and as intimidating weapons are bound to be popular.

From a pure tool perspective, a machete cuts well for three reasons. Its

length gives the machete wielder good leverage. Its ample weight, a result of blade width, adds strength and makes for a more powerful swing. Finally, the relative thinness of the blade affords superior penetration when slashing.

What about the machete as a weapon? Anyone who's seen the outcome of a social dispute in which one or more of the participants was equipped with a machete gets a lasting appreciation of its potential for combat. A man hit with a machete sustains a lot of damage in a hurry; the same qualities that make the machete so effective at cutting brush come into play when man is the target.

But these same qualities can be a liability in a combat situation. Its length makes it cumbersome in close quarters, particularly in heavy brush or under tree limbs that grab the blade in mid-swing. And a machete lacks the quickness and maneuverability of a first-rate fighting knife. The length that can be such an advantage in some situations is a disadvantage in others.

What about the specific machetes we acquired from Atlanta Cutlery? All three Brazilian blades were made of straight carbon steel and were properly tempered. They were soft enough that a file would just cut them, making the chore of touching up the cutting edge relatively quick and easy. Each of the test machetes held its edge well throughout our testing, which consisted of clearing about a half acre of brush and vines. Each of the three machetes was fitted with a hardwood handle held in place by rivets which run through the handle and tang.

The African-pattern machete with the 20-inch blade — the biggest and heaviest — was the most powerful of the three for pure slashing power. But the three-inch blade width gave this machete a tendency to turn in the hand. And much of its total weight of 1½ pounds is in the last third of the blade length. These two factors made this machete difficult to control. This is

Continued on page 84

ANOTHER PEACETIME CASUALTY

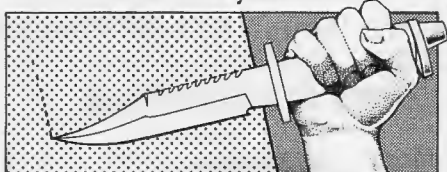
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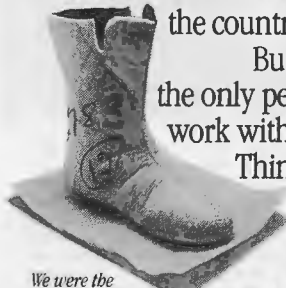


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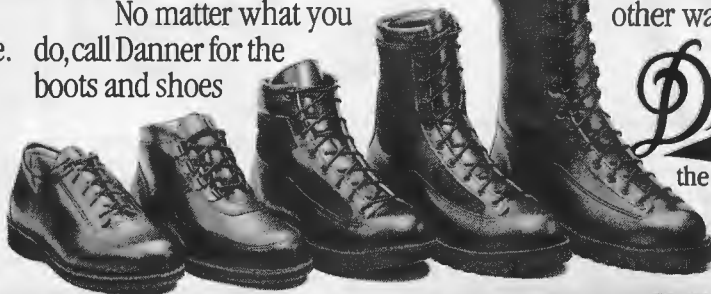
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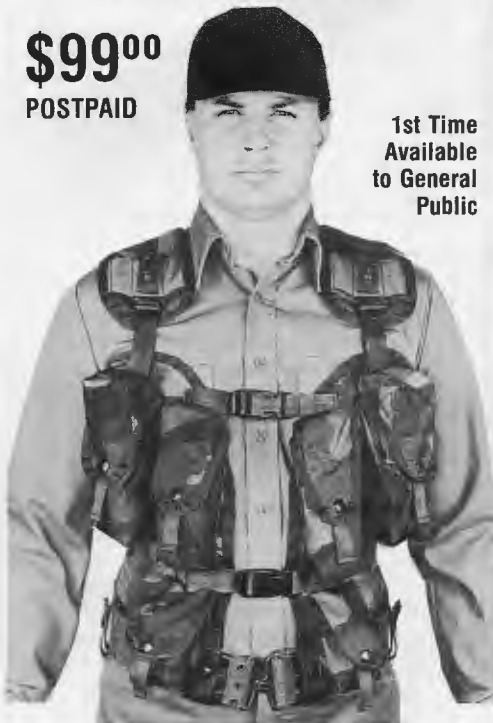
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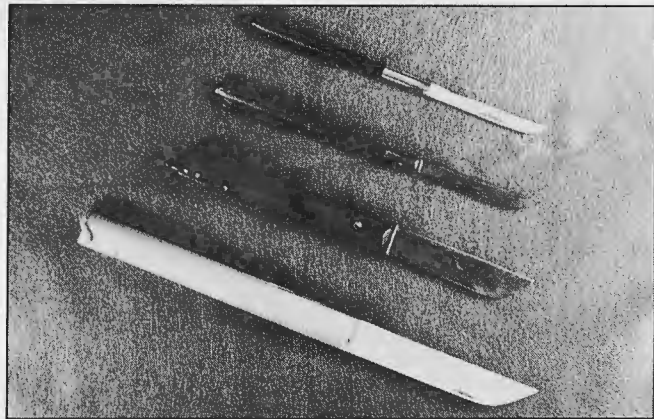
NEW KNIVES FROM BRAZIL

The B&D Trading Company of Fair Oaks, California has introduced a line of new folding knives produced by Executive Edge of Brazil. Ranging from the 3½-inch Junior Executive to the 10-inch Fazendeiro, the knives come in a variety of finishes. These slim, lightweight knives fit easily into the pocket and are perfect for any daily task.

Apart from the slender size and reasonable price, the Executive Edge knives feature a new positive blade-locking mechanism called the Deadlock system. A sturdy steel bolt holds the blade locked firmly open and a secondary pin keeps the blade equally secure when closed. The system offers an unusual degree of strength and reliability for a small knife. Somewhat stiff at first, the locking mechanism becomes easier to operate after repeated use.

The larger knives, the Fazendeiro and the Outdoorsman, are ideal for rugged use in the field. The smaller knives combine a discreet

ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER



appearance and compact size, yet still deliver everything expected in a well-made pocket or pen knife. Prices range from \$24.95 to

\$54.95 depending on model and finish. Available from the B&D Trading Company, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1023, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

TURNING TARGETS

Most gun clubs and law enforcement agencies require firing ranges for handgun training and competition. And most of them need turning targets for precise marksmanship training. Many different systems have been devised over the years and most of them work. But most depend on a mechanical lever and pulley system to move them on line, limiting the number of targets that may be operated at any one time.

Action Target Inc., a company out of Provo, Utah, has designed and is marketing a system built to correct that. These turning targets are operated by compressed air. The system is flexible enough to be modified for different applications and can operate any number of targets simultaneously.

Action Target's product meets the requirements of the National Rifle Association and those of other handgun competition organizations. At a recent PPC match in Provo, Utah, the system was installed on a sixteen-lane range in less than a day and all targets performed up to snuff, turning in less than four-tenths of a second.

Action Target has made the range a more productive training environment while eliminating the old problem of inflexibility. Shooters can expect to see more of this system in the future.



Inquiries should be directed to Action Target Inc., Dept. SOF, 235 South 200 West, Provo, UT 84601.



TASCO SCOPE

A low-power rifle scope for use in thick brush or dim light is something hunters have needed for years, but until now there hasn't been an ideal optic system for those situations. Tasco, a Miami-based optics company with a reputation for quality and innovation, has produced a scope that can handle the job.

The WA13.5x20, a wide angle shockproof, waterproof, fogproof scope is ideal for deer and any other game that might be encountered in densely wooded areas. Since the scope permits sighting without magnification, shooters can keep both eyes open, allowing for faster target acquisition and a quicker first shot at elusive game. The scope weighs 10.5 ounces and is 9.75 inches long.

For details, write Tasco, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 520080, Miami, FL 33152. ✕

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- A ROC Veterans Association military briefing on Taiwan.
- Banquets with Chinese army veterans, airborne staff and National Parachute Association members.
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- Visits to the Chinese military academy, and airborne and special forces bases.

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CASPIAN ARMS

.45 Colt Clone Falls Short

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

CASPIAN ARMS SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber45 ACP (also available in 9mm Parabellum and .38 Super)
Operation	Short recoil, locked-breech, semiautomatic, single-action
Feed mechanism	7-round single-line detachable box-type magazine
Weight, empty	38.5 ounces (short slide)
Overall length	6.75 inches (short slide)
Barrel	Six-groove; right-hand twist with one turn in 16 inches
Barrel length	4.25 inches (short slide)
Height	6.25 inches
Width	1.25 inches (including grip panels)
Sights	Test specimen equipped with Millet fixed high-profile combat sights with ramped front blade and square-notch rear. Other sights available.
Features	Enlarged ejection port, extended beavertail grip-safety, beveled magazine well. Trigger adjustable for over-travel. Test specimen equipped with hooked trigger guard and finger groove.
Stocks	Wood, checkered
Finish	Blue or stainless steel
Price	\$580 (as equipped for test and evaluation).
Accessories	Blued or stainless spare magazines, \$15 each. Slides, frames and other components available separately.
Manufacturer	Caspian Arms, Dept. SOF, 14 N. Main St., Hardwick, VT 05843.

SO what if the U.S. Armed Forces adopted the Beretta 92SB-F pistol? And who cares if the rest of the world has been happy with the 9mm Parabellum cartridge for half a century? Colt's Model 1911 .45 ACP locked-breech recoil-operated masterpiece will never lose its luster in the eyes of American pistoleros. When you lock and load with eight rounds of .45 ACP, that massive 230-grain ball ammo gives you an instinctive feeling that the scales are tipped in your favor. And confidence in one's equipment plays no small role in success.

If imitation is the highest form of flattery, Colt's 75-year old fight-stopper is well served. There are many undisguised duplications of the M1911 series. One of the latest is from Caspian Arms. Despite its good looks, quality is more than skin deep. Is the Caspian version a quality weapon?

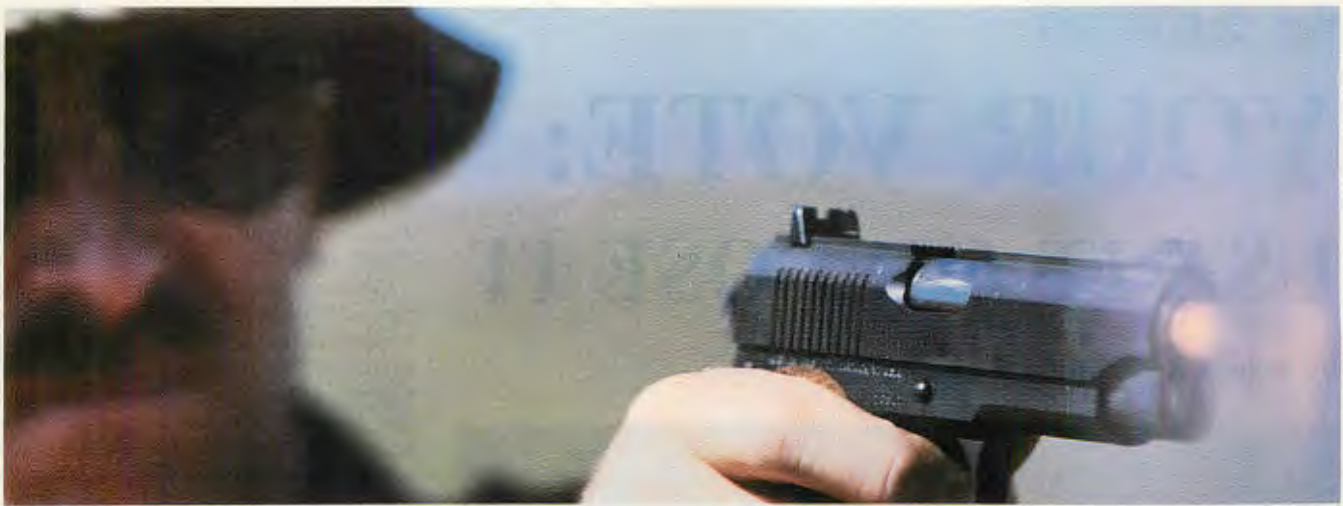
One measure of any weapon is to assess the sum of its parts. Caspian does not take the shrug-the-shoulders, "parts is parts" attitude about its components. For example, before Randall and Detonics went out of business, Caspian Arms manufactured frames, slides and other components for both of these respected companies. Indeed, only a small percentage of Caspian's business is in completed pistols. Caspian's frames and slides — which are heat-treated prior to machining — are also highly regarded by the pistolsmiths who customize models for IPSC competitors. The heat treatment results in less distortion and closer tolerances.

But if you want to order a Caspian Arms .45, a wide array of optional features are available. The frames are machined from investment castings in either 4140 blued steel or 17-4 stainless, with or without finger grooves. These can be mated to either short or long slides, also investment cast in 4140 or stainless steel. There are numerous sight options as well.

Combined with the standard features not usually available from other manufacturers, any Caspian Arms pistol is theoretically a custom job right from the factory. Our test specimen in 4140 blued steel was provided with the requested finger groove, Millet

Caspian Arms .45 ACP pistol field stripped.





ABOVE AND RIGHT: Bruce Nelson fires the Caspian Arms .45 ACP pistol.

sights and a short slide. Its suggested retail price is \$580.

The most distinctive feature of the frame, or receiver, is the pronounced finger groove and raised checkering on the front strap. It looks good. But it's of questionable worth in a quick-draw situation. If your initial grip is not correct, there will be no time to correct and fire accurately. This could be trouble for the serious shootist.

The trigger guard has been squared and hooked. While worthless, this design modification at least is not as potentially lethal as the finger groove. A correct Weaver stance makes no use of the trigger guard. Bruce Nelson, Gunsite's first instructor and a participant in SOF's analysis of the Caspian Arms .45, says high-speed photography indicates that the finger invariably flies off the trigger guard during the recoil cycle.

The Caspian's magazine well has been beveled. This is moderately useful during quick magazine changes. A ring-type hammer of the Colt Commander configuration is standard. There was a light patina of rust in its knurled grooves. I liked the flat main-spring housing, but not the poor quality of its checkering. We can expect better on a \$580 pistol.

A beavertail extended grip-safety has been installed above the main spring housing. The design concept is correct, as hammer-bite is a real problem when firing hundreds of rounds in succession from the Weaver stance with the web of the hand placed high and tight on the frame.

But Caspian's execution of this design concept unfortunately is unsatisfactory. There is a quarter-inch gap between the frame and the grip-safety's wings.

Nelson predicted a new phenomenon called "grip-safety bite." Until this is corrected, Caspian Arms should issue a tube of NEW-SKIN (a liquid plastic bandage commonly used by gun school students) with each pistol. The standard, Colt-type thumb



Besides making its own pistols, like this .45 ACP, Caspian Arms has made components for other noted manufacturers



The hooked trigger guard is neither good nor bad, says author. But the finger groove could be a deadly hindrance in a quick-draw situation.



Millet fixed combat sights have the right configuration, but the complex white dot design can be confusing.



Extended heavertail grip safety with quarter-inch gap between the frame and the grip safety's wings.

Continued on page 82

YOUR VOTE: USE IT OR LOSE IT

by Robert K. Brown



NATIONAL elections are less than a month away. In the United States Senate, 34 of the 100 seats are up for grabs. In the House of Representatives, all 439 members (including four non-voting seats from Guam, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands) must face the electorate. This is a time when all responsible citizens have a duty — yes, a duty — to themselves, to our democracy, to other free people and especially to those who must struggle forcibly against tyranny because they cannot vote.

Voting, whether one considers it a right or a privilege, is definitely a responsibility. No government is any better than the sum of its people; usually not as good. This makes participation all the more important. The United States is the model to which all others look. To *not* vote is to vote for bad government.

Taking the cynical cop-out of “my vote doesn’t really count” is a dangerous attitude. It’s also unrealistic. Your vote now counts more than ever. It’s a tribute to the historical architects of our nation, and those who followed, that more people have been

enfranchised than ever before.

In the first days after independence, when this country was more of a republic than a democracy, the vote was limited to adult white males who owned land or paid taxes. In the Carolinas and Maryland, that man had to own a minimum of 50 acres to qualify as a voter; in South Carolina he also had to swear his belief in God and divine punishment. No atheists, Jews or Roman Catholics could hold office in New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut or Vermont. While blacks partially counted in apportioning congressional seats in the South, only New Jersey gave them the vote, and they were disenfranchised there in 1807.

All that has changed for the better. And despite the many problems that continue to beset our federal government, it is still the best. Why else do we have so much trouble keeping unauthorized people from sneaking into our country? Meanwhile communist and other totalitarian regimes must post guards and lay mine fields to keep their citizens in. The Berlin Wall has stood now for 25 years as a symbol of which type of government is most desirable.

Citizenship offers numerous benefits, more in the United States than in any other country. But benefits on any level — from your job to citizenship — also imply responsibility. Benefits do not come free, despite what many of our liberal politicians would have us believe. Somebody *somewhere* had to pay, as often as not in blood. The vote is something thousands of our ancestors fought and died to win, and then to keep.

Although the possibility seems remote in the comfortable affluence of our society, the responsibility of voting *could* boil down to a use-it-or-lose-it proposition. The late, great Colonel Arthur “Bull” Simons may have said it best: “If history is any teacher, it teaches that when you become indifferent and lose the will to fight, some other son of a bitch who has the will to fight will take you over.”

Voting is a civilized way of fighting, whether it be against apathy, ignorance, mindless bureaucracy, or useful idiots like U.S. Reps. Ronald Dellums, Patricia Schroeder and Michael Barnes; or U.S. Sens. Alan Cranston and Ted Kennedy — to name just a few of the elected officials who kowtow to socialism and communist causes.

Taking the vote for granted is easy. Staying informed on the myriad of complicated issues is not. Taking the responsibilities of citizenship seriously takes effort. Many people do not even know who represents them in Congress. Or what the important issues are.

Two issues which are of great importance to *Soldier of Fortune* are the congressional approval of the Volkmer-McClure Firearms Owners’ Protection Act and the more recent \$100 million aid package to Nicaragua’s anti-communist rebels. The former is important because it deals directly with the private citizen’s Second Amendment right to keep and bear firearms, the latter because the vote was a litmus test of whether your elected national officials stand for or against the hopes for democracy in Central America.

The firearms legislation is a vast improvement over the Gun Control Act of 1968. How did your congressman and senators vote? If you don’t know, it’s important to find out. The National Rifle Association offers approval ratings on all members of Congress. To find out whether your elected lawmakers have been protecting your rights as a gunowner, call the NRA’s Governmental Affairs Division at (202) 828-6387. Then go to the polls and vote accordingly.

Aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters is a clear-cut issue. A vote against the bill was a vote in favor of the communist Sandinistas and their ideological bosses in Moscow and Havana. A vote for the bill was a vote against allowing a second Soviet proxy government in this hemisphere, this time on the mainland and within easy driving distance of our vulnerable southern border.

Included with this editorial is a roster indicating how members of Congress voted on the \$100 million aid package to anti-Sandinista Nicaraguans. Delegations are

listed by state. Do your senators and representatives stand for or against allowing the spread of communism in this hemisphere? Find out. Then go out and vote. Make your government work for you, and for freedom-loving people everywhere. ✎

VOTE TALLY

This is a list of how the United States Senate and House of Representatives voted on providing \$100 million in military and humanitarian aid to anti-communist forces fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua. A "Y" indicates a "yes" vote in favor of the aid package, an "N" a "no" vote against it. "X" indicates a member who did not vote. Seats vacant because of death or other reason are not listed. Last names only are listed. The names of Republican members are italicized. All House members are up for re-election. The Senate has 34 seats up for grabs. The designation (1) after a senator's name means his term expires and he is seeking re-election. A (2) after a senator's name means his term expires and he is retiring.

SHOULD THE UNITED STATES PROVIDE \$100 MILLION IN MILITARY AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES IN NICARAGUA? (The House approved the measure in a 221-209 vote. The Senate approved it in a 53-47 vote.)

ALABAMA:

SENS. Heflin-Y; Denton(1)-Y.

REPS. Bevell-Y; Callahan-Y; Dickinson-Y; Erdreich-Y; Flippo-Y; Nichols-Y; Shelby-Y.

ALASKA:

SENS. Stevens-Y; Murkowski(1)-Y.

REP. Young-Y.

ARIZONA:

SENS. Goldwater(2)-Y; DeConcini-N.

REPS. Kolbe-Y; McCain-Y; Rudd-Y; Stump-Y; Udall-N.

ARKANSAS:

SENS. Bumpers(1)-N; Pryor-N.

REPS. Alexander-N; Anthony-N; Hammer-schmidt-Y; Robinson-Y.

CALIFORNIA:

SENS. Cranston(1)-N; Wilson-Y.

REPS. Anderson-N; Bates-N; Beilenson-N; Berman-N; Bosco-N; Boxer-N; Brown-N; Burton-N; Coelho-N; Dellums-N; Dixon-N; Dymally-N; Edwards-N; Fazio-N; Hawkins-X; Lantos-N; Lehman-N; Levine-N; Martinez-N; Matsui-N; Miller-N; Mineta-N; Panetta-N; Roybal-N; Stark-N; Torres-N; Waxman-N; Badham-Y; Chappie-Y; Dannemeyer-Y; Dornan-Y; Dreier-Y; Fiedler-Y; Hunter-Y; Lagomarsino-Y; Lewis-Y; Lowery-Y; Lungren-Y; McCandless-Y; Moorhead-Y; Packard-Y; Pashayan-Y; Shumway-Y; Thomas-Y; Zschau-Y.

COLORADO:

SENS. Hart(2)-N; Armstrong-Y.

REPS. Schroeder-N; Wirth-N; Brown-Y; Kramer-Y; Schaefer-Y; Strang-Y.

CONNECTICUT:

SENS. Weicker-N; Dodd(1)-N.

REPS. Gejdenson-N; Kennedy-N; Morrison-N; Johnson-Y; McKinney-N; Rowland-Y.

DELAWARE:

SENS. Roth-Y; Biden-N.

REP. Carper-N.

FLORIDA:

SENS. Chiles-Y; Hawkins(1)-Y.

REPS. Bennett-Y; Chappell-Y; Fascell-Y; Fuqua-Y; Gibbons-Y; Hutto-Y; Lehman-N; MacKay-N; Mica-Y; Nelson-Y; Pepper-Y; Smith-Y; Bilirakis-Y; Ireland-Y; Lewis-Y; Mack-Y; McCollum-Y; Shaw-Y; Young-Y.

GEORGIA:

SENS. Nunn-Y; Mattingly(1)-Y.

REPS. Barnard-Y; Darden-Y; Fowler-N; Hatcher-Y; Jenkins-Y; Ray-Y; Rowland-Y; Thomas-Y; Gingrich-Y; Swindall-Y.

HAWAII:

SENS. Inouye(1)-N; Matsunaga-N.

REPS. Akaka-N; Hefelt-N.

IDAHO:

SENS. McClure-Y; Symms(1)-Y.

REPS. Stallings-N; Craig-Y.

ILLINOIS:

SENS. Dixon(1)-Y; Simon-N.

REPS. Annunzio-N; Bruce-N; Collins-N; Durbin-N; Evans-N; Gray-N; Hayes-N; Lipinski-Y; Price-N; Rosentkowski-N; Russo-N; Savage-N; Yates-N; Crane-Y; Fawell-Y; Grothberg-X; Hyde-Y; Madigan-Y; Martin-Y; Michel-Y; O'Brien-Y; Porter-Y.

INDIANA:

SENS. Lugar-Y; Quayle(1)-Y.

REPS. Hamilton-N; Jacobs-N; McCloskey-N; Sharp-N; Visclosky-N; Burton-Y; Coats-Y; Hiler-Y; Hillis-Y; Myers-Y.

IOWA:

SENS. Grassley(1)-Y; Harkin-N.

REPS. Bedell-N; Smith-N; Evans-Y; Leach-N; Lightfoot-N; Tauke-N.

KANSAS:

SENS. Dole(1)-Y; Kassebaum-Y.

REPS. Glickman-N; Slattery-N; Meyers-Y; Roberts-Y; Whittaker-Y.

KENTUCKY:

SENS. Ford(1)-N; McConnell-Y.

REPS. Hubbard-Y; Mazzoli-N; Natcher-N; Perkins-N; Hopkins-Y; Rogers-Y; Snyder-Y.

LOUISIANA:

SENS. Long(2)-Y; Johnston-Y.

REPS. Boggs-N; Breaux-Y; Huckaby-Y; Long-N; Roemer-Y; Tauzin-Y; Livingston-Y; Moore-Y.

MAINE:

SENS. Cohen-Y; Mitchell-N.

REPS. McKernan-Y; Snowe-Y.

MARYLAND:

SENS. Mathias(2)-N; Sarbanes-N.

REPS. Barnes-N; Byron-Y; Dyson-Y; Hoyer-N; Mikulski-N; Mitchell-N; Bentley-Y; Holt-Y.

MASSACHUSETTS:

SENS. Kennedy-N; Kerry-N.

REPS. Atkins-N; Boland-N; Donnelly-N; Early-N; Frank-N; Markey-N; Mavroules-N; Moakley-N; O'Neill-X (by tradition the House Speaker seldom votes); Studds-N; Conte-N.

MICHIGAN:

SENS. Riegle-N; Levin-N.

REPS. Bonior-N; Carr-N; Conyers-N; Crockett-N; Dingell-N; Ford-N; Hertel-N; Kildee-N; Levin-N; Traxler-N; Wolpe-N; Broomfield-Y; Davis-Y; Henry-Y; Pursell-Y; Schuette-Y; Siljander-Y; Vander Jagt-Y.

MINNESOTA:

SENS. Durenberger-N; Boschwitz-Y.

REPS. Oberstar-N; Penny-N; Sabo-N; Sikorski-N; Vento-N; Frenzel-Y; Stangeland-Y; Weber-Y.

MISSISSIPPI:

SENS. Stennis-Y; Cochran-Y.

REPS. Dowdy-Y; Montgomery-Y; Whitten-N; Franklin-Y; Lott-Y.

MISSOURI:

SENS. Eagleton(2)-N; Danforth-Y.

REPS. Clay-N; Gephardt-N; Skelton-Y; Volkmer-N; Wheat-N; Young-N; Coleman-Y; Emerson-Y; Taylor-Y.

MONTANA:

SENS. Melcher-N; Baucus-N.

REPS. Williams-N; Marlenee-Y.

NEBRASKA:

SENS. Zorinsky-N; Exon-N.

REPS. Bereuter-Y; Daub-Y; Smith-Y.

NEVADA:

SENS. Laxalt(2)-Y; Hecht-Y.

REPS. Reid-N; Vucanovich-Y.

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

SENS. Humphrey-Y; Rudman(1)-Y.

REPS. Gregg-Y; Smith-Y.

NEW JERSEY:

SENS. Bradley-Y; Lautenberg-N.

REPS. Dwyer-N; Florio-N; Guarini-N; Howard-N; Hughes-N; Rodino-N; Roe-N; Torricelli-N; Courter-Y; Gallo-Y; Rinaldo-Y; Roukema-Y; Saxton-Y; Smith-Y.

NEW MEXICO:

SENS. Domenici-Y; Bingaman-N.

REPS. Richardson-N; Lujan-Y; Skeen-Y.

NEW YORK:

SENS. Moynihan-N; D'Amato(1)-Y.

REPS. Ackerman-N; Biaggi-Y; Downey-N; Garcia-N; LaFalce-N; Lundine-N; Manton-N; McHugh-N; Mrazek-N; Nowak-N; Owens-N; Rangel-N; Scheuer-N;

Schumer-N; Solarz-N; Stratton-Y; Towns-N; Weiss-N; Boehley-Y; DioGuardi-Y; Ecker-Y; Fish-Y; Gilman-Y; Green-N; Horton-N; Kemp-Y; Lent-Y; Martin-Y; McGrath-Y; Molinari-Y; Solomon-Y; Wortley-Y.

NORTH CAROLINA:

SENS. Helms-Y; Broyhill(1) [a House member and Republican senatorial candidate appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late John East, who had announced his retirement]-Y.

REPS. Hefner-N; Jones-N; Neal-N; Rose-N; Valentine-N; Whitley-N; Broyhill [voting before his appointment to fill an unexpired Senate term]-Y; Cobey-Y; Coble-Y; Hendon-Y; McMillan-Y.

NORTH DAKOTA:

SENS. Burdick-N; Andrews(1)-N.

REP. Dorgan-N.

OHIO:

SENS. Glenn(1)-N; Metzenbaum-N.

REPS. Applegate-N; Eckart-N; Feighan-N; Hall-N; Kaptur-N; Luken-N; Oaker-N; Pease-N; Seiberling-N; Stokes-N; Traficant-N; DeWine-Y; Gradison-Y; Kasich-Y; Kindness-Y; Latta-Y; McEwen-Y; Miller-Y; Oxley-Y; Regula-Y; Wylie-Y.

OKLAHOMA:

SENS. Boren-Y; Nickles(1)-Y.

REPS. English-Y; Jones-Y; McCurdy-N; Synar-N; Watkins-Y; Edwards-Y.

OREGON:

SENS. Hatfield-N; Packwood(1)-N.

REPS. AuCoin-N; Weaver-N; Wyden-N; D. Smith-Y; R. Smith-Y.

PENNSYLVANIA:

SENS. Heinz-Y; Specter(1)-N.

REPS. Borski-N; Coyne-N; Edgar-N; Foglietta-N; Gaydos-X; Gray-N; Kanjorski-N; Koltner-N; Kostmayer-N; Murphy-N; Murtha-Y; Walgren-N; Yatron-N; Clinger-Y; Coughlin-Y; Gekas-Y; Goodling-Y; McDade-Y; Ridge-N; Ritter-Y; Schulze-Y; Shuster-Y; Walker-Y.

RHODE ISLAND:

SENS. Pell-N; Chafee-N.

REPS. St. Germain-N; Schneider-N.

SOUTH CAROLINA:

SENS. Thurmond-Y; Hollings(1)-Y.

REPS. Derrick-N; Spratt-N; Tallon-Y; Campbell-Y; Hartnett-Y; Spence-Y.

SOUTH DAKOTA:

SENS. Pressler-Y; Abdnor(1)-N.

REPS. Daschle-N.

TENNESSEE:

SENS. Sasser-N; Gore-N.

REPS. Boner-N; Cooper-N; Ford-N; Gordon-N; Jones-N; Lloyd-Y; Duncan-Y; Quillen-Y; Sundquist-Y.

TEXAS:

SENS. Bentsen-Y; Gramm-Y.

REPS. Andrews-N; Brooks-N; Bryant-N; Bustamante-Y; Chapman-N; Coleman-N; de la Garza-N; Frost-N; Gonzalez-N; R. Hall-Y; Leath-Y; Leland-N; Ortiz-Y; Pickle-N; Stenholm-Y; Wilson-Y; Wright-N; Archer-Y; Amey-Y; Bartlett-Y; Barton-Y; Boulter-Y; Combest-Y; DeLay-Y; Fields-Y; Loeffler-Y; Sweeney-Y.

UTAH:

SENS. Garn(1)-Y; Hatch-Y.

REPS. Hansen-Y; Monson-Y; Nielson-Y.

VERMONT:

SENS. Stafford-N; Leahy(1)-N.

REPS. Jeffords-N.

VIRGINIA:

SENS. Warner-Y; Triple-Y.

REPS. Boucher-N; Daniel-Y; Olin-N; Sisisky-Y; Bateman-Y; Bliley-Y; Parris-Y; Slaughter-Y; Whitehurst-Y; Wolf-Y.

WASHINGTON:

SENS. Gorton(1)-N; Evans-Y.

REPS. Bonker-N; Dicks-N; Foley-N; Lowry-N; Swift-N; Chandler-Y; Miller-Y; Morrison-Y.

WEST VIRGINIA:

SENS. Byrd-N; Rockefeller-N.

REPS. Mollohan-N; Rahall-N; Staggers-N; Wise-N.

WISCONSIN:

SENS. Proxmire-N; Kasten(1)-Y.

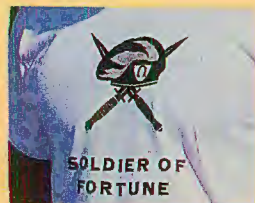
REPS. Aspin-Y; Kastenmeier-N; Kleczka-N; Moody-N; Obey-N; Gunderson-Y; Petri-Y; Roth-Y; Sensenbrenner-Y.

WYOMING:

SENS. Wallop-Y; Simpson-Y.

REP. Cheney-Y.

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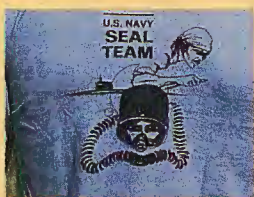
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1016



1018 FRONT



1018 BACK



1021 FRONT



1021 BACK



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1015 BACK



1015 FRONT



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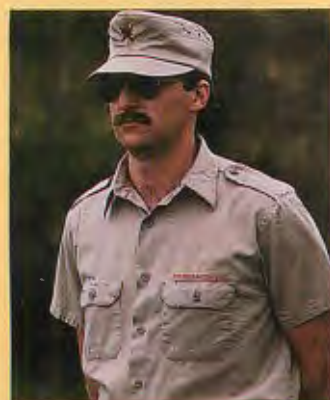
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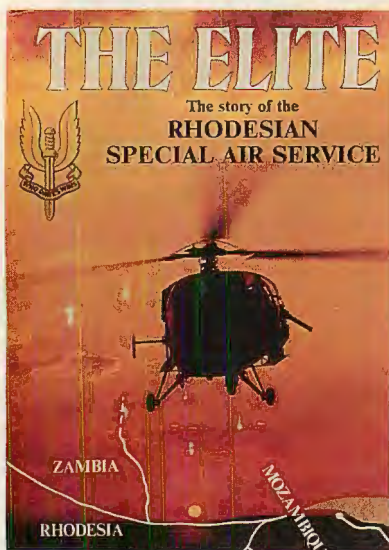
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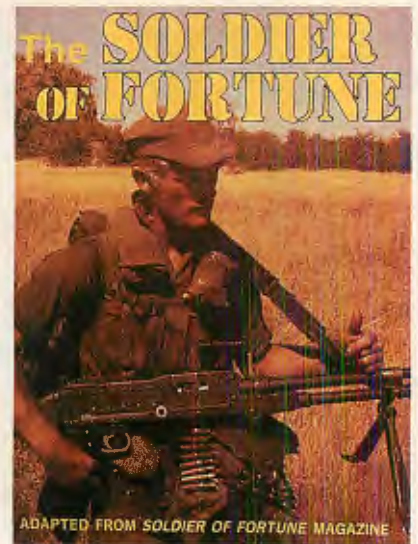
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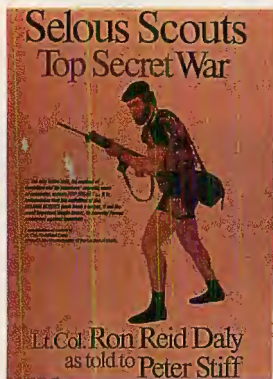
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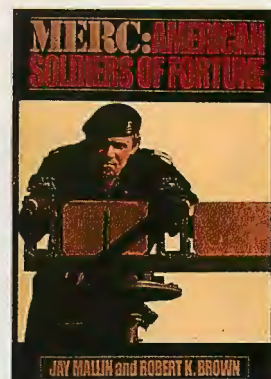
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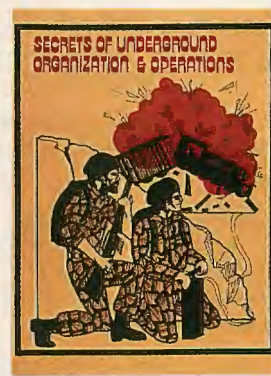
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AMONG THE MISSING

Civilian MIAs in Indochina

by J.T. MacAlister

SOUTHEAST Asia has a way of holding on to secrets. The people who live in this land of mystery have come to accept that fact, but Westerners have not. When they left Vietnam after the war, they also left behind another mystery — the fate of MIAs from the Vietnam War. Not just the Americans who disappeared there, but the foreigners who also vanished without a trace. The passage of time has only deepened the mystery.

One of the strangest cases on record involving a third-country national is that of Masanobu Tsuji, a former colonel in the Imperial Japanese Army and prominent postwar politician, who vanished while en route from Saigon to Laos in April 1964. Tsuji was no mere run-of-the-mill colonel, however. He had served as architect of the fall of Singapore during WWII, and in close army circles was accorded the *nom de guerre*, "God of Strategy."

At war's end in August 1945, Tsuji was in Thailand. When he learned through high-level contacts that his name was on the

Pol Pot, genocidal ruler of Cambodia who held power from 1975-1979. Among his victims were a number of Westerners.



Allied "wanted list" as a war criminal, he promptly disappeared. Only in the 1950s did accounts emerge of his activities following the end of WWII. Close associates of the colonel told investigators Tsuji first disguised himself as a monk and hid out in a temple close to Bangkok. Later, still masquerading as a saffron-robed *bonze*, he headed up-country, crossed Laos, and moved into northern Vietnam. Making his way to Hanoi, then occupied by the French, he initiated contact with the Viet Minh. Later, for a brief period, he accompanied Viet forces as an "observer," and was personally acquainted with both Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap.

He next moved on to China where, somewhat paradoxically, he served as an adviser to Chiang Kai-shek's nationalists. While in China he continued his studies into the theory and practice of irregular guerrilla

Evidence found at Tuol Sleng prison included photos and documents of missing Australian civilians.

warfare.

Following the defeat of the nationalists in 1949, Tsuji left China and returned clandestinely to Japan where he remained underground for many months. Learning that he was no longer sought as a war criminal, he publicly surfaced in 1952, entered politics, and ran successfully for a seat in the Diet. At age 62, Tsuji was a respected, if somewhat eccentric, figure in Japan with a diverse coterie of admirers in the Japanese defense establishment. In early 1964, however, he surprised associates when he departed Japan on a hastily-organized "inspection mission" to Thailand and South Vietnam. Exactly what he expected to learn during his travels has never been made public.

On 20 April 1964 Tsuji wrote from Saigon to his family in Tokyo, telling them he expected to be home by the first of May. However, five days later the manager of his hotel reported to the local Japanese consulate that Tsuji had vanished with all his luggage the previous day. The Japanese

Foreign Office was immediately notified and when no further word of Tsuji's presence was forthcoming over the next month, the Japanese dispatched a government mission to Saigon which included several military intelligence officers. Despite wide-ranging inquiries, no word on the missing

parliamentarian surfaced and the mission eventually returned to Japan. The Japanese government then proceeded to clamp a tight lid on the case, saying any further public pronouncements might possibly jeopardize Tsuji's safety.

Five months later, in August 1964, Radio Peking announced that a "Japanese member of parliament, Masanobu Tsuji," had been shot to death by CIA agents in Laos. U.S. government officials immediately denied the charges, and the Chinese refused to elaborate. Despite entreaties from the Japanese government, the Chinese refused to provide further information and have never since publicly mentioned the colonel.

There the case rested until January 1965, when a ransom note was delivered to the Japanese consulate in Hong Kong. The note indicated Tsuji was being held captive and demanded a ransom of half a million yen. The note also included signed and dated identification from Tsuji which was authenticated by both his family and the Japanese government. Efforts by the consulate staff to maintain contact with the Chinese who delivered the note were unsuccessful, however, and the ransom was never paid. A year later, in 1966, a second ransom note was delivered to the same consulate but again, inexplicably, the senders severed all contact.

A veteran Japanese reporter, Mimoru Omori, along with Japanese intelligence agents, later successfully traced Tsuji from Saigon to Vientiane, Laos. A senior Pathet Lao official there testified that he had met Tsuji who had shown him letters of introduction to Pathet Lao leaders around the Plain of Jars, where Tsuji allegedly wanted to go. Another individual, described as a "Chinese interpreter" in reports, told investigators Tsuji had been captured by Pathet Lao guerrillas in 1965 and executed as a spy.

A second Pathet Lao official in Vientiane, Tao Sot, told Omori that Tsuji, once again attired in the robes of a Buddhist *bonze*, had met with Pathet Lao commanders and delivered his letters of introduction.

Nationalist Chinese pilots from Taiwan regularly flew throughout Indochina for the United States during the Vietnam War. Many are still missing.




REWARD!

\$30,000

MISSING

JIM

MISSING



MISSING

THOMPSON

MISSING

THE SILK KING VANISHES

On Easter Sunday 1967, an expatriate American millionaire with a mysterious past vanished from a mountain resort in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia. Government and private investigators are still searching for him today.

His name is Jim Thompson, an intelligence officer in Southeast Asia during WWII who settled in Bangkok when the conflict ended. He became interested in Thai silk, then a dying industry, and almost single-handedly revitalized the trade. Within a decade it had become world famous, and made him a millionaire in the process. He was known as the Thai "Silk King," and was one of the best known Americans in Asia.

Thompson left his Bangkok home to spend the Easter holidays with friends in Malaysia. On Sunday, 26 March, while they enjoyed a nap, Thompson walked away from their highlands cottage and vanished into thin air. He was never seen again.

An extensive search was immediately mounted by Malaysian troops, and U.S. Army helicopters were flown in from Thailand to assist. Later, aboriginal trackers were also brought in, but not a single clue turned up.

Naturally, theories ranging from

Reward posters blanketed the area after Thompson's 1967 disappearance. Was it related to the Vietnam War?

suicide to kidnapping ran rampant. Some believed he had been snatched by communist guerrillas who forcibly carried him off and executed him. Others, citing Thompson's background in OSS and alleged connections to the CIA, say he was murdered because of his influence on Thai government officials.

One of the more persistent theories holds that Thompson stage-managed his own disappearance, and this has led to "sightings" as far afield as China, the U.S. and Tahiti.

The conspiracy theory received a shot in the arm when, six months after Thompson's disappearance, his sister Katharine was bludgeoned to death on her Chester County, Pennsylvania farm. Her case also remains unsolved.

The late journalist Richard Hughes, who had extensive contacts throughout Asia, reported in 1983 that he had evidence Thompson was seen aboard a Japanese ship bound for Hong Kong two days after his disappearance. Hughes opined that Thompson, still a player in the intelligence game, had received information about the Vietnam War which he believed could be of immense benefit to the U.S. and Thai governments.

There the trail ends.



Tsuji, he said, was then escorted to a jungle airstrip and flown in a Russian plane to Hanoi. Once there, according to Tao Sot, Tsuji had met with his old companions Ho Chi Minh and General Giap. After a brief stay in Hanoi he went on to Peking, then returned to Hanoi.

Omori, who enjoyed a reputation as a strictly factual reporter of the highest caliber, later indicated his own personal belief that, by 1967, Tsuji was serving in the field with North Vietnamese forces. Backing up Omori's belief is a statement by the late Richard Hughes, former dean of the Far Eastern press corps, who had known Tsuji personally in Japan. Hughes said Tsuji "was indeed sighted once in the jungle by American prisoners of war."

Opinions about Tsuji's whereabouts from 1964 onward vary considerably. Many, including former close associates, believe he is probably dead; not an unrealistic view, given his age. Did he die of old age, or was he killed in battle against American troops, or — as the Chinese interpreter related — was he killed, perhaps by mistake, by Pathet Lao guerrillas? No one is prepared to say.

One school of thought holds that Tsuji is still in Hanoi, a permanent guest in exile. A smaller faction believes that, shortly after his appearance in Laos, Tsuji did indeed board a Russian aircraft. His destination, however, was Moscow, not Hanoi. The Soviets were known to have aircraft operating in Laos at the time, and were never ones to pass up a good thing, particularly when it involved a member of parliament with intimate knowledge of the Japanese defense establishment. That view may not be so preposterous when one considers that the Russians never returned the more than 300,000 Japanese captured in the closing days of WWII.

Cambodia also swallowed people without a trace — more than a score of journalists vanished while covering the war there. Only five of them were Americans, the rest were French, Austrian, Japanese, German, Swiss and Australian nationals. For years after the end of the war, reports continued to flow from the jungles that many of the newsmen were alive and in communist captivity. A Viet Cong general told a U.S. journalist in 1973 that a group of missing newsmen were being held in a Khmer

Column of Khmer Rouge women on the march. They were as notorious as their male counterparts and were also used to guard Western POWs.

Rouge camp near Angkor Wat. The group, which allegedly included missing Japanese scribes, "would be released after normalization of relations," according to the general.

Other reports from a variety of sources, including refugees, also referred to Western journalists being held in captivity long after the war's end. Locations of the camps, however, varied considerably: from the far north around Mondolkiri to the Elephant Mountains of the southwest.

Many of the journalists had vanished during the opening days of the 1970 Cambodian incursion by U.S. and South Vietnamese troops. Efforts to locate and, if possible, rescue them were forthcoming from both the private and government sectors.

One of the more intriguing rescue attempts involved one Johannes C.G. Duynesveld, 26, of Voorschoten, Holland, who was killed in December 1970 during an ARVN ambush near Svay Rieng, Cambodia.

A corpulent, full-bearded man with pronounced leftist tendencies, Duynesveld had been roaming the globe for over a decade and held down a variety of jobs. He claimed to have traveled in Bolivia with Regis Debray, a prominent French leftist, and had spent time in jail in Argentina for smuggling. Eventually he wound up in Cambodia, wanting to write about the war. He insisted on describing himself as a "journalist" despite the fact that most of his colleagues considered him barely literate. His consistently disheveled appearance added little to his credibility.

During the summer of 1970 Duynesveld was wounded in a firefight near Siem Reap and taken prisoner by the communists. He was held for nine weeks, during which time his wounds healed, then was released in August whereupon he returned to Phnom Penh. At the time of his release, press accounts described him as a "Dutch student journalist."

Little is known of Duynesveld's contacts or activities while a prisoner, but upon re-

lease he brought out certain information related to missing American cameraman Dana Stone who had disappeared with Sean Flynn (photojournalist and son of actor Errol Flynn) months earlier near Chi Pou. Eventually he made contact with Stone's wife, Smiser, who was living in Phnom Penh, and she verified the information about her husband. Something concrete appeared to finally be emerging, and following a series of clandestine meetings with individuals in Phnom Penh, Bangkok and Vientiane, Smiser agreed to underwrite a journey by Duynesveld into enemy-controlled territory so he might make direct contact with her missing husband.

Duynesveld departed Phnom Penh by bicycle on 15 September 1970. Three days later he was captured by VC troops near the village of Chantrei. According to a diary and other papers found on his body at the time of his death, Duynesveld wrote that he was on a "secret mission" to discover the fate of all 17 missing journalists, not just Dana Stone. Irregular diary entries charted his travels with VC units, and many of the notations dealt with efforts to evade allied warplanes. In late November Duynesveld convinced the VC he was sympathetic to their cause, and was issued a machine pistol. On 2 December he wrote of repairing a captured ARVN jeep, and on the seventh told of transporting weapons and munitions for the VC.

On 19 December the unit Duynesveld was accompanying stumbled into a night ambush position manned by ARVN 25th

Continued on page 78

Renate Kuhnen, West German nurse captured in the Central Highlands, was released by the NVA in March 1969. Other foreigners did not fare so well; hundreds are still on the MIA list.



SKORPIAN

Yugoslavia's Machine Pistol with a .32 Caliber Sting

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

IT'S Ulster, or maybe Beirut, or even Paris. A young assassin waits nervously in the shadows, eyes following a black Mercedes limousine that pulls up to the curb. His victim steps out onto the sidewalk, two bodyguards hovering about him. The terrorist steps away from the dark wall, fires a three-round burst into his enemy's chest, whirls, and pumps short bursts into the upper torsos of the bodyguards before they can react. All three drop, never knowing they have been felled by a pipsqueak pistol cartridge — the supposedly impotent .32 ACP. The assailant slides back into the night, his commitment to Allah or Marx ended for the evening. His instrument of death? A small black machine pistol with a most appropriate name: the Skorpian.

Designed in Czechoslovakia during the late 1950s, the Vz61 Skorpian possesses neither the compactness of a pocket pistol nor the firepower and range of a full-sized submachine gun. It's a machine pistol, and one of the very best. Some say it was developed for armored vehicle crews and security forces. I seriously doubt its military applications are other than clandestine. In Europe, where public opinion permits police to walk about openly with such devices, it would certainly seem preferable to a semiauto pistol of the same chambering. But like the ubiquitous Kalashnikov, it has become a tool of terrorists the world over.

Skorpians are reported to have been manufactured as the Vz64 in caliber .380 ACP (9mm Kurz: 9x17mm) and as the Vz65 in 9mm Makarov (9x18mm). A scaled up version, the Vz68, is reputed to be chambered for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge. I cannot confirm the existence of any of these. Sources from Czechoslovakia have indicated a hot new 9mm short cartridge has been developed for the Vz61 Skorpian and the Vz82 pistol (military version of the Cz83 — see SOF, February '86) by Sellier & Bellot in Vlasim, with a muzzle velocity in excess of 1,300 fps.

The Skorpian is also manufactured, under license, in Yugoslavia at the Zastava arsenal as the M61(j). We recently tested the Yugoslavian Skorpian. This weapon is pure blowback operated, but fires from the closed-bolt position since the .32 ACP cartridge and a limited magazine capacity present small opportunity for a cook-off, and the increase in accuracy potential is considerable.

With two minor exceptions, the Yugoslavian version is identical to the Czech Vz61. All exterior metal surfaces on the M61(j) are finished with black baked enamel over phosphate. A Czech Skorpian I examined in El Salvador was salt blued.

A stamped sheet-metal pressing has been used to fabricate the upper receiver which houses the barrel and bolt group. Pinned to the upper receiver and a steel support block, the six-groove barrel has a righthand twist of one turn in 12 inches. It's only 4.4 inches in length, about an inch longer than those of most pocket pistols chambered for the .32 ACP (7.65mm) cartridge.

The front and rear sights are punch-welded to the square-shaped upper-receiver body. Sheet-metal protective ears guard the round post-type front sight which is adjustable for windage zero only. A flip-type rear sight with protective ears has two open U-notches calibrated for 75 and 150 meters: a poor joke, since the maximum effective combat range of this weapon and caliber is no greater than 50 meters.

There are ejection ports on top of the upper receiver and telescoping bolt. Two ejectors are pinned to the lower receiver just to the rear of the magazine well. Because the bolt overrides the rear portion of the barrel, the Skorpian's length has been kept down to only 10.6 inches with the stock folded. A cross-pin holds the two-piece spring-loaded firing pin in its channel through the bolt body. A small spring-loaded claw extractor is also pinned to the bolt body and easily removed. Double re-

coil springs and guide rods are attached to the bolt in a manner reminiscent of the ArmaLite AR-18 assault rifle. An unlocked bolt as small and light as the Skorpian's would normally result in a cyclic rate well over 1,200 rounds per minute. However, a clever, if somewhat complex rate reducer housed in the lower receiver drops the rate of fire to a manageable 835 rpm. Slots, one on each side of the bolt body, hold the tiny cocking knobs which offer precious little purchase to even the smallest of hands.

The lower receiver itself is a robust milled forging. Its diminutive size is largely responsible for this weapon's weight of only 3.42 pounds, empty. Consisting of 14 components, the ingenious rate reducer within the lower receiver operates as follows: When the bolt reaches the end of its rearward travel, it strikes a nose-shaped actuator connected by an axis pin to a spring-loaded hook and the receiver's back-plate. As the actuator is struck, the hook pivots forward under the force of its small spring to momentarily catch the bolt while a spring-loaded plunger is driven downward through the tubular pistol-grip housing. A two-piece weight is clipped around the plunger with a snap ring. After the plunger completes its downward travel, striking a rubber washer in grip's end cap, it starts back up, driven by its compressed spring. Meanwhile, the falling weight hits the bottom of the plunger and slows its upward return. After overcoming the weight's downward momentum, the plunger continues moving upward until it strikes the actuator. The actuator pivots on its axis pin and forces the bolt hook upward, freeing the bolt to travel forward under the force of its two driving springs. This momentary grabbing and releasing of the bolt body retards the counter-recoil movement enough to reduce the cyclic rate by more than 30 percent.

The trigger mechanism is based on that of the M1 Garand and thus there is both a



LEFT: Firing the M61(j) with the 10-round magazine in place.

BELOW LEFT: Yugoslavian M61(j) disassembled.



primary and secondary sear on the trigger bar and two hooks on the hammer. While the primary sear is fixed, the secondary sear is spring loaded. When the hammer is cocked, it is held back by the main sear. When the trigger is pulled, the main sear moves forward off its notch on the hammer and the hammer rotates up and forward, driven by a multiple-strand spring. When the bolt moves back in recoil and rolls the hammer down, it is caught by the secondary sear.

When the selector lever, located on the left side of the lower receiver, is rotated rearward to the semiautomatic position (marked '1'), and as the trigger is released, the secondary sear moves back out of engagement with the hammer. As the hammer starts forward after the trigger has been released, it is caught once more by the main sear and held until the trigger is pulled again.

When the selector lever is rotated all the way forward to the full-auto position (marked '20'), its spindle pushes the secondary sear to the rear, completely out of engagement with the hammer. The hammer is then controlled entirely by a third auto-safety sear which is depressed by the bolt body during the last part of its forward travel.

When the selector is set at safe (the center position, marked '0'), its spindle blocks all trigger movement and the primary sear cannot release the hammer. In this position, the selector also operates a lever that forces a bolt-stop up to protrude behind the bolt and prevent its rearward travel. A large sheet-metal trigger guard surrounds the trigger to permit firing with gloves under arctic conditions.

Pistol grips, held in place by the rate reducer's end cap, are made of black plastic on Yugoslavian Skorpians, blond wood on the Czech versions. The wire buttstock, which folds over the top of the upper receiver and is held in place by the front sight's protective ears, is identical on both models. A bit on the short side, it is attached to a dovetail milled into the rear of the lower receiver and can be removed by depressing its spring-loaded latch-release button and sliding it out to the left. In an effort to further enhance concealability, terrorists often discard the buttstock completely.

Ten- and 20-round staggered-column magazines are available for the Skorpion. Both are the more reliable two-position feed type, of sheet-metal construction with blued finish. The magazine follower operates a spring-loaded plunger which holds the bolt in the open position after the last round has been fired. The bolt must be retracted slightly to release this hold-open device.

For all its bits and pieces, the Skorpion is easy enough to disassemble. Just be sure you have a magnetic tray or container handy

M61(j) SKORPIAN SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber	32 ACP (7.65mm)
Operation	Unlocked blowback. Fires from the closed-bolt position. 14-component rate reducer.
Cyclic rate	835 rpm.
Feed	10- and 20-round detachable staggered box-type steel magazines with two-position feed.
Weight, empty	3.42 pounds.
Length, stock folded	10.6 inches
Length, stock extended	20.2 inches
Barrel	Six-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 12 inches.
Barrel length	4.4 inches
Sights	Round post-type front with protective ears, adjustable for elevation zero only; flip-type rear with open U-notches for elevations of 75 and 150 meters.
Finish	Black baked enamel over phosphate.
Furniture	Black plastic pistol grip.
Accessories	Holster, magazine pouch, spare 10- and 20-round magazines, cleaning equipment and sound suppressor.
Price	\$395 (semiautomatic pistol version only).
Manufacturer	Zavodi Crvena Zastava, Beograd 29, Novembra 12, Yugoslavia.
U.S. Distributor	Mitchell Arms Inc., Dept. SOF, 2101 East 4th Street, Suite 201A, Santa Ana, CA 92705.



to hold the small parts. Remove the magazine and clear the weapon. Separate the stock from the weapon. Pull out the captive takedown pin, just forward of the magazine well on the left side, as far as it will go. Shove the upper receiver forward about a quarter of an inch and pivot it up and away from the lower-receiver group. Slide the bolt to the rear and remove the two cocking knobs. Move the bolt group out the rear of the upper receiver.

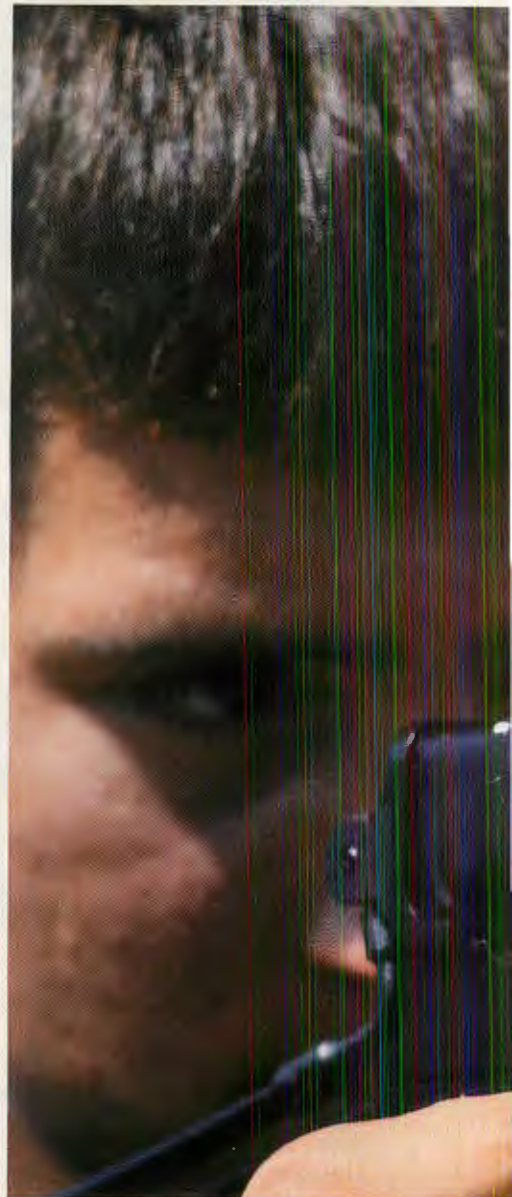
Depress the recoil springs and separate their retaining bar from the guide rods. Slide the recoil springs off the guide rods and pull the guide rods out from the back of the bolt body. Both the firing pin and extractor assemblies can be removed by drifting out their respective retaining pins.

Use a drift or steel rod to unscrew the rate reducer's end cap. Remove it and the rubber washer. The rate reducer's plunger, weights and spring will then drop out. Pull off the pistol grip. There is usually no need for further disassembly, but the rate reducer's actuator and bolt hook can be removed easily by drifting out their axis pin. Reassemble in the reverse order, making sure the recoil springs' retaining bar is reinstalled with the

flat side up.

There are few accessories for the Skorpion. A leather holster with the usual military flap holds the weapon with a 10-round magazine in place and a cleaning rod and bristle bore brush. Two 20-round magazines can be carried in a small leather pouch. A sound suppressor is available which can be attached to the barrel in seconds by means of a threaded collar and locking nut. It has a flimsy plastic outer housing, and is not user maintainable — its rubber end cap is quickly shot out, and it produces huge clouds of smoke. It was clearly not designed for long-term backyard pest control. After the target has been terminated, this device would undoubtedly be pitched into the nearest dumpster.

Feeble though it may be, the .32 ACP cartridge, designed by John Browning and introduced in 1899, is found in the magazines of more than two-thirds of all pocket pistols manufactured since the turn of the century. In Europe, up to and during World War II, pistols in this caliber were the traditional choice of rear echelon staff officers and civilian police officials. Why? Probably because the magazine, in almost every in-



TOP LEFT: Yugoslavian M61(j) with holster, magazine pouch and cleaning equipment.

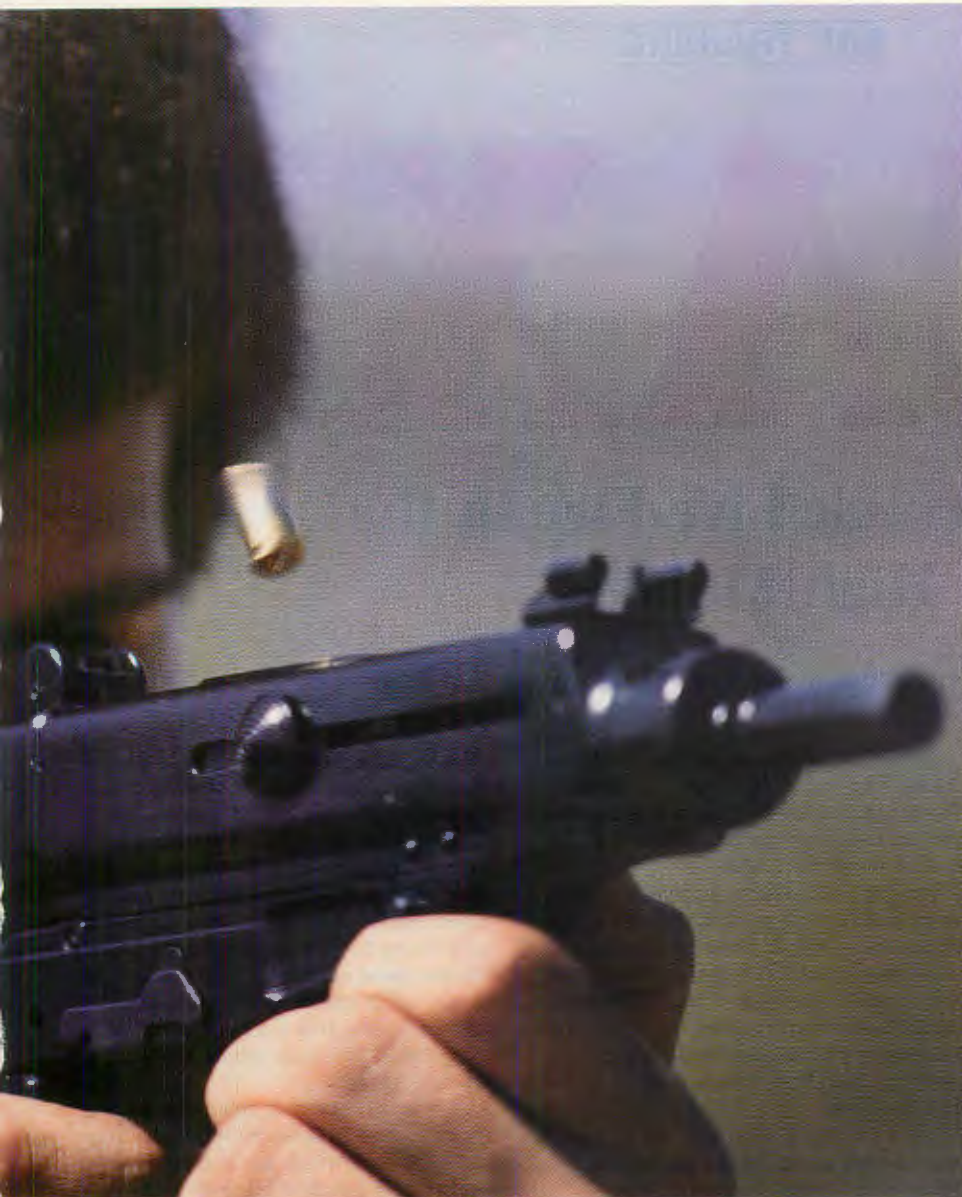
ABOVE LEFT: M61(j)'s 14-component rate reducer is complex but effectively drops the cyclic rate to 835 rpm.

ABOVE: The ejection pattern of the M61(j) is 15 feet straight up and 4 feet to the rear.

RIGHT: M61(j) bolt group, disassembled.

BELOW: Firing the M61(j) with the 20-round magazine in place.





stance, holds one more round than the equivalent model in .380 ACP. In any event, those who carried it were seldom required to dirty their hands and it was rarely more than a badge of rank.

The .32 ACP has never appealed to us gringos. Packing even the marginally superior .380 ACP can become a precarious compromise for the sake of concealability when you travel in harm's way. But what happens when we introduce a selective-fire option?

When two- or three-round bursts are fired into the human body, with only milliseconds separating the individual hits, a so-called "synergistic" phenomenon takes effect. In biology, a synergism is the action of two or more objects to achieve an effect of which each is individually incapable. Does it apply to bullets striking flesh? You bet.

The .32 ACP cartridge is most commonly encountered with a 71-grain full metal jacket (FMJ) bullet taper crimped into its semi-rimmed case. Using Winchester Western factory loads, this projectile clocked only 868 fps 10 feet from the muzzle of a Walther PPK with a 3.4-inch barrel. The Skorpien's extra inch improved this by only 33 fps. Your only glimmer to reduce anxiety when armed with a weapon in this caliber is to stuff the Winchester Silvertips into the magazine. Their 60-grain hollowpoint projectiles have a soft lead core covered by a thin aluminum jacket. They expand reliably, and will usually not exit, dumping their few crumbs of kinetic energy into the target. Silvertips did no better than 884 fps in the PPK. Through the Skorpien, muzzle velocity increased to an average of 982 fps. But that's only 129 foot-pounds of kinetic energy — no more than one-third that of the 9mm Parabellum.

We fired more than 500 rounds of mixed ball and Silvertips through our test specimen with one stoppage — a stovepipe with an FMJ round. Felt recoil was minimal and not a factor in the evaluation process. At 25 feet we were able to fire consistent two-shot bursts with a group dispersion of no more than 2 inches.

Whenever possible, this weapon should be fired at eye level with the stock extended. Firing from the hip assault position will pitch a handful of empty cases into your face because of the ejection port's location on top of the upper receiver. The ejection pattern is 15 feet straight up and about 4 feet to the rear.

Machine pistols are highly specialized instruments and fill a very small niche in the modern small arms arsenal. Rugged, reliable and efficient, the Skorpien is one of the very few successful weapons in this peculiar genre — despite its use by some unsavory characters.

A semiautomatic-only pistol version of the Yugoslavian M61(j) is imported by Mitchell Arms Inc., Dept. SOF, 2101 East 4th Street, Suite 201A, Santa Ana, CA 92705. Missing only the stock and selective-fire option, it's priced at \$395 and should attract both collectors and shooters. ✕

CAX

Leatherneck Live-Fire in the High Mojave

Text & Photos by Eric M. Hammel

IT'S a long way from the lush woodlands of Quantico's Officers' Candidate School to the desert moonscape of the high Mojave. But a lot more than distance separates the OCS facility in northern Virginia and the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center at Twenty-nine Palms, California.

Studying the theories of fire support coordination and combined arms in an OCS classroom is fine. But leadership isn't something that can be learned from a book. It's one thing to march your unit around the Quantico parade deck, quite another to hunker down in the hot desert with a map, compass and radio, ordering your men to lean more into their supporting artillery and mortar fire.

If OCS is the classroom, the Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) at Twenty-nine Palms is the ultimate laboratory, a live-fire practicum that measures an officer's ability to lead troops in combat.

Leading a battalion in combat means more than just moving troops over varying terrain. In addition to directing the efforts of his grunts, an infantry battalion commander must coordinate a wide variety of supporting arms, including mortars, artillery, naval gunfire, helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft — everything from 81mm mortars to the F/A-18 Hornet.

Marine M60 machine-gun team adds its voice to the support mission.

Finding a facility to handle the scope and intensity of any exercise that remotely approaches real combat isn't easy. That's why the live-fire CAX is so important. Short of going to war, it represents the ultimate learning experience for everyone involved. And if an officer makes a mistake in coordinating his fire support, it can be the ultimate dying experience. It's a tribute to the many safety officers who work the Delta Corridor — the live-fire zone at Twenty-nine Palms — that training fatalities are few and far between.

Each year the combat center hosts up to 10-reinforced Marine battalion landing teams (BLTs,) which are composed of a standard rifle battalion filled out by a com-



pany each of tanks, amtracs, engineers, an artillery battery, a section or two of TOW missiles, recon units and other combat-support elements. In a typical year, eight of the reinforced battalion landing teams are regular units, and two are reserve units.

A CAX is the only time and place in the Marine Corps in which all the heavy weapons that would be at the disposal of a battalion commander in a combat scenario can be deployed at once. The only concession to reality is naval gunfire, hard to arrange in the Mojave, two hundred miles from the nearest coastline. So naval gunfire is simulated by 8-inch and 155mm self-propelled guns operating off a simulated beachhead.

The thrust of the CAX exercise is the training of the battalion commander and his fire-support team — forward air controllers, air-naval-gunfire liaison companies (ANGLICOs), artillery and 81mm mortar FO teams — to really support a continuous three-day, 60-kilometer offensive operation by infantry and tanks.

As any Marine infantry CO who has been involved in a CAX can tell you, this is no dog-and-pony show. No battalion commander or staff has ever aced a CAX problem. As in real war, *something* always goes wrong. This is a tribute to the degree of difficulty involved. Too many things happen at once. The ordnance is live and the pressure is real. One might forget what he reads in a book. But no smart man ever forgets what he learns from mistakes.

This brings up an important aspect of CAX. Men come to make mistakes so they can learn. CAX is less a test than a vital learning experience. By emphasizing learning, the CAX controllers believe that the battalion commander and his staff stand a better chance of focusing on the tactical

Marine 60mm mortar crews practice with a training device that fires an inert dart. There's no need for protective equipment or range clearance, and it provides accurate deflection, angle and proportional range readings.

problem rather than being preoccupied with worry on how superior officers will evaluate performance.

By the time a Marine infantry officer rises to the command of a rifle battalion — by all measures the pinnacle of his career — he has had 20 years of professional training in the field and at schools. But nothing in his background could possibly prepare him for controlling the enormous firepower at his disposal. This is why CAX is so vital to maintaining combat efficiency without actually going to war.

Fatigue and confusion are two important elements of CAX. After jumping off and securing fixed objectives during the day, the BLT must set up a defensive perimeter the first afternoon and defend it the first night against a simulated assault by a Soviet motorized rifle regiment. On the second day, a grueling advance leads to a classic simulated Soviet strongpoint astride the only possible route of advance through the Delta Corridor. Minefields and tank traps must be breached and the battalion must be

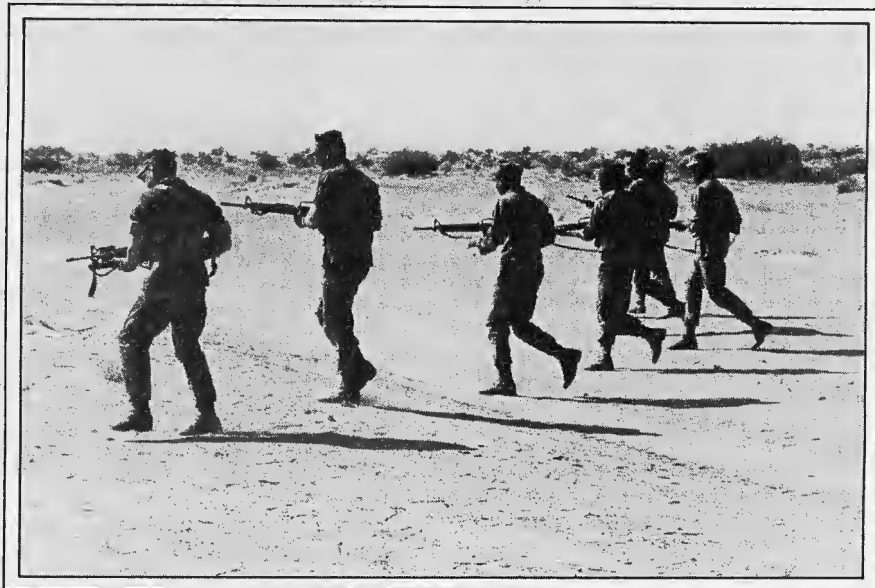


divided to secure outlying positions before moving in for the main assault. That same evening, the BLT must undertake a rigorous night march over desert mountain terrain corrugated by steep arroyos, walled in by canyon cliffs. A full third day of action completes the exercise. By then, the reinforced BLTs — tanks, infantry, and artillery — is 60 kilometers from its line of departure.

Every movement and fire mission takes place in real-time. The only compromises are for safety. For example, if the only solution to a real tactical problem is to fire artillery very close to Marines on the ground, the battalion commander and his advisers must set up the mission exactly as they would in real life. The artillerymen must prepare to fire the mission exactly as they would in real life. And the mission must actually be fired, though offset to an area in which there are no troops. The same might be true for an airstrike. But if safety is not a factor, artillery and airstrikes must find the targets or be discounted. Misses count as misses and duds count as duds.

Tactical controllers, omnipresent during the operation, look for potential danger as much as for tactical or technical errors and omissions. If there is the slightest doubt as to safety, red smoke appears and the airwaves come alive with warnings and shouts of "Check fire! Check fire! Check fire!" The operation instantaneously stops, and it resumes only when the controllers agree that the danger has passed.

Real foul-ups occur, and no compromises are made. At a recent CAX, a tank company commander who had taken out hard targets in the Soviet strongpoint with dispassionate precision grew impatient as he waited for an infantry assault to catch up. The tank officer ended up attacking the strongpoint without



infantry support. The controllers let him roll into an exposed position before announcing that he had been "killed" by a Soviet Sagger antitank missile that could very well have gotten him in a real war. The result was that the company commander and his tank — and a second tank that followed him in the attack — were dead for the day.

An artillery survey team that blithely surged forward to survey a new battery site was informed that it was within range of distant simulated Soviet artillery that had not yet been bombed into submission. The artillerymen spent much of the next half-hour with their faces in the sand doing push-ups.

When an engineer unit found it had not

Marines practice advance across open desert.

BELOW: Marine M60A1 main battle tank advances to the front across a broad desert plain.





Marines pause for a quick field briefing.

brought forward the right equipment to breach a minefield, the first day's advance came to a painful, embarrassing halt until a real-time solution could be found.

The Marine Corps undertook its first brigade-sized CAX in November 1985, and plans are afoot to run several each year beginning in 1987. There are also plans to install more and better targets and to open new routes of advance. High-tech laser

equipment for designating casualties are also available for CAX-sized maneuvers, the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System. MILES employs laser transmitters and receivers that allow opposing forces to "kill" each other in exercises. The infantryman wears a harness with several receivers attached roughly outlining his body, with a separate receiver attached to the helmet band. A transmitter mounted on the M16 barrel is activated when the trigger is pulled.

Another innovation brings more battle-field realism to CAX. It's called "Let's Change the Rules in the Middle of the Game." The rather canned evolution of CAX will be replaced by the imposition of new and unexpected intelligence reports and unanticipated orders from higher headquarters. Battalion commanders will be given more flexibility in selecting routes of advance and intermediate objectives. Requirements for "casualty" treatment and evacuation will probably soon add to the headaches of the battalion staff in areas of logistics and manpower.

The training and evaluation officers sum up the trend toward increasing realism this way: The ultimate aim of the CAX is to teach battalion commanders — men who might have to go sailing off to face real enemies in real wars — to orchestrate the complex array of arms at their disposal. Notwithstanding the probability that the CAX experience will teach all participants some degree of humility and caution, the value of the enterprise is to instill an awareness of what is possible, upside and downside.

Nothing short of being in a war can prepare a man for what he must face. For Marines, the CAX is as close to the real thing as it gets. ✕

Eric Hammel is no stranger to writing or the USMC. His books include *Chosin: Heroic Ordeal of the Korean War*, *76 Hours: The Invasion of Tarawa* and *The Root*, an account of the Marines in Lebanon.

HIGH-ALTITUDE

ROKS

Holding the Toughest Ground of the DMZ

Text & Photos by Rick Fulton

NEARLY three-and-a-half decades have passed since the cannon roar ceased in the hills of Korea. The Armistice Agreement ended the Korean War in 1953, yet its signing did not mean peace. While conventional war stopped along the DMZ, the fighting continues. North Korean soldiers periodically probe the defenses of the south, and incidents along the demarcation line number in the thousands since the war's end.

American servicemen continue to help protect the peninsula, including the volatile DMZ, but most of the 135 miles separating the Yellow Sea in the west and the Sea of Japan in the east are guarded by members of the Republic of Korea army and marine corps. Americans and Koreans serve together, guarding the peace in Korea, in the ROK/US Combined Forces Command (CFC).

Headquartered at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, the command is led by an American, General William J. Livsey, and a ROK four-star general as deputy. The half-million members of the command have one of the toughest military jobs in the world; the countryside they defend is rough, rocky and heavily overgrown. Minefields are many, and the forces of the north periodical-

ly open fire without warning. Yet the Korean Armistice Agreement — the longest ceasefire agreement in the history of modern warfare — remains a viable working document thanks to the excellent quality of the soldiers who safeguard peace in the south — fighters who are ready to meet any aggression.

Holding the high ground in any army takes a special kind of soldier. The members of the Republic of Korea Army's 7162nd (Baek Doo San) Mountain Infantry Unit are a band of professionals who practice their craft in what is some of the roughest terrain in northeast Asia. The 7162nd lives in the shadow of the DMZ and knows the meaning of preparedness. It is a place where rifles are locked and loaded before boots get tied in the morning, where the wearing of two or more grenades on night guard duty is as common as shaving.

Simply getting to this unit's rear area, a couple hundred kilometers from CFC headquarters in Seoul, is hard. It requires perseverance and patience to endure the many potholes encountered along the twisting dirt and gravel mountain roads. And when you get to the 7162nd headquarters, the toughest part is still ahead. Getting to one of their forward outposts requires hours

of slow driving along narrow one-lane dirt tracks up twisting switchbacks.

If you are afraid of heights, forget "eyes right," because the only military thought that will come to mind is "airborne!" In fact, a static-line jump off the edge wouldn't be altogether impossible. But the mines at the bottom might pose a problem.

In summer, fog or clouds often dominate the landscape, blocking vision, while ice and snow make winter a bitter enemy of this mountain infantry unit. Some folks think that the DMZ neatly flows on level ground in a northeasterly direction across the peninsula. This isn't the case. Up in the Baek Doo San mountain unit's sector, there is at least one place where soldiers on watch from both sides stare at each other along a north-south granite finger. At guardposts on either side, the forces are separated by deep valleys. The DMZ may be three kilometers wide, but because of the way the ground flows, it is easy to get within 800 meters of a North Korean bunker — and you don't even have to go into the DMZ itself to do that.

It's hard country, a place unforgiving of carelessness or mistakes. Minefields are everywhere: many unmarked ones left from the war, as well as some of more recent vintage. The cliffs are steep, the granite is



ROK TOUR

Rick Fulton is currently a civilian employed by the U.S. Army as a speechwriter. He served in Korea between 1966 to 1967 in the U.S. Air Force. During his most recent tour in Korea, 1982-1984, he served as a USAR captain in a civil affairs unit, as well as being a GS-12 civilian employee.

Author poses in a bunker on top of the highest point of ground along the DMZ with a ROK lieutenant colonel from the 7162nd. Photo: SFC Terry Lynch



sharp, and the heavy undergrowth provides concealment for an enemy within short range.

It was over this rugged terrain that, in the early 1950s, some of the harshest fighting of the Korean War took place: the battles at "Punchbowl," up on "Bloody Ridge" and "Heartbreak Ridge." Those charged with holding this ground today learned from the past war the importance of their task.

The ROK two-star general in command of this tough force personifies the combat-ready soldiers he leads: enthusiastic, tough, well disciplined, skilled in combat crafts and dedicated to the defense of the Republic's freedom. This major general has fought communism his entire life, first against Kim Il-Sung's infiltration teams during the 1960s and later against the Viet Cong in Vietnam. It was in this hard school that he came to appreciate the important relationship between military readiness and physical fitness. It is a lesson he stresses to his men.

His soldiers are required to spend many hours in a rigorous PT program. Every unit in the 7162nd has its own obstacle course and every soldier in the unit, from the general on down, has to beat the clock in getting through it. At least two hours of every train-

ing day are spent with exercises, running and taekwondo.

The 7162nd also emphasizes mountaineering techniques and takes advantage of the numerous opportunities for rappelling, as well as rope and free rock climbing in the area. Not only do the soldiers constantly practice traversing the mountainous terrain, but they also continually practice fighting under such difficult conditions. One training exercise requires soldiers to jump from ledges as high as 7 meters, do a tuck-and-roll, come to the kneeling position and shred a target 50 meters downrange with a burst from their assault rifles.

A particularly interesting skill, practiced regularly, is the ability to hit a small target at 20 paces with a five-bladed throwing star similar to the Japanese shuriken. But the toys sold in the United States are nothing like these. Think of five sharpened railroad spikes welded together, and you have a good idea of the weapon I'm trying to describe.

Every morning, the soldiers of the

BELOW: Flame throwers, in addition to live ammunition and explosives, add to the authenticity of the squad bounding overwatch.

The ROK armed forces emphasize martial arts training — taekwondo — in their daily PT program.

7162nd spend some time throwing their stars at pieces of telephone pole that are mounted chest high throughout the various company training areas. I watched awhile, thought I had it, hit the target once and put the next three right in the dirt. The soldiers watching my feeble efforts were polite enough to hide their grins behind their hands and tried to give me a few pointers. It was a lost cause.

Another skill emphasized is the squad bounding overwatch, done with live ammunition, blocks of high explosive (C-4) and flame-throwers.

We watched several such exercises, including a practice session by a special-purpose unit. We were told that the unit practices raiding enemy headquarters, so they will be ready to do exactly that in the event the armistice should fail and full-scale war should return to the Korean peninsula. Defectors crossing the line from opposing North Korean units have given the ROK mountain troops a fairly clear idea of how the typical small unit communist headquarter-



ABOVE: The soldiers of the 7162nd practice throwing these five-bladed stars daily.



LEFT and ABOVE: 7162nd troopers running an obstacle course.

RIGHT: Soldiers of the 7162nd (Baek Doo San) Mountain Infantry Unit are constantly preparing for a conflict along the DMZ.

FAR RIGHT: Overlooking the deep valleys below, a ROK soldier of the 7162nd stands guard along the highest ground on the DMZ.

ters is set up.

It takes little imagination to guess the specific purpose of the practice raid: the quick and absolute elimination of the command and control elements of the North Korean forces in the AO. First, sentries are removed. Once inside the simulated headquarters, built with rubber tires, the men shoot and move through the complex. Streams of bullets fly past men engaged in setting charges. As the men exit the target, the charges blow. One rubber tire sails into the air. Even in practice, battlefield realism is the order of the day.

Those of us who served in Vietnam remember the tough Korean soldiers of the late 1960s. They were on our side in a mean and dirty war. And they held up when it got tough. The ROKs fought beside us in Korea, and they fought beside us in Vietnam. The sons of those men are the soldiers of the ROK/US Combined Forces Command today, and we can count on them just like we could count on their fathers and grandfathers should a war again break out on the peninsula. That says it all. ✕

BELOW: Mountain infantry troops practice knife skills.





ABOVE: Armed with M16s, the morning guard drill high atop the DMZ — on the north rim of punchbowl.

ABOVE RIGHT: A soldier stands at attention during 7162nd's NCO academy training.

RIGHT: Morning PT consists of a rigorous routine of obstacle courses, running and tae kwon do practice.



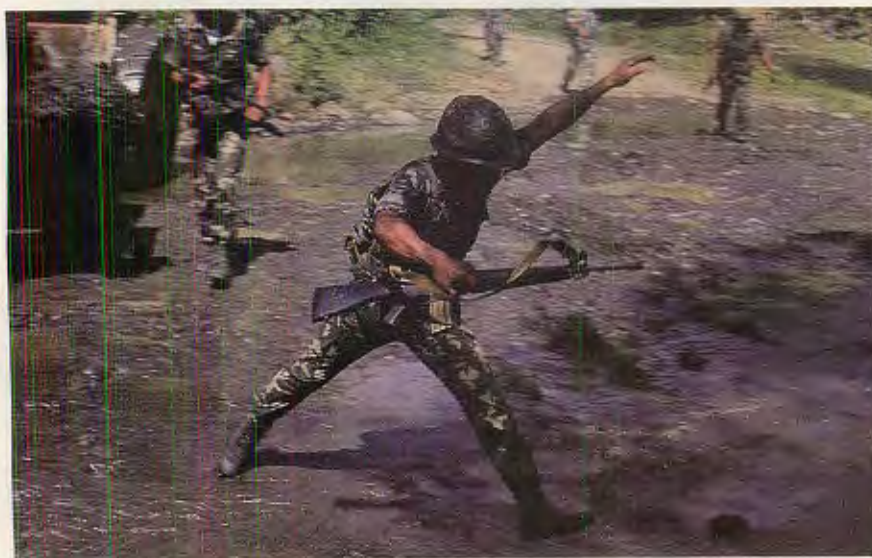
MARCOS' BITTER LEGACY

Fear Haunts the Sugar Islands

Text & Photos by Donald Kirk



HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER FERDINAND E. MARCOS AND THE FIRST LADY AND MINISTER IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS



“THIS is your Sugar Road,” read the signs along the pot-holed strips of blacktop. The road stretched inland from the coastal city of Bacolod, a sweltering city on the island of Negros, to the slopes of the mountains running north-south down the spine of the island. Bumping along the slowly narrowing roads, cutting through seas of cane, I realized that the countryside really belongs — or did belong — to the warlords who once held sway with the harshness of feudal chieftains over most of this improverished Philippine island.

A gravel airstrip cuts a swath through cane fields rustling slowly in a hot afternoon breeze. It was a first clue of the power wielded by a legendary friend of Ferdinand Marcos before the dictator was dumped last February. At the end of the strip in a cluster of neat thatched buildings was the headquarters of Robert H. Benedicto's private army. Its mission: to protect Benedicto, a sugar cane king and one of Marcos' "supercronies."

I got out of my car just beyond the end of the strip and walked warily up to a couple of T-shirted young guards clutching M16s.

"Private army?" The men seemed surprised by my question. No, they told me, they were members of the Philippine Constabulary (PC), an internal peace-keeping force commanded by General Fidel Ramos, one of the men who helped engineer the revolt that finally toppled Marcos.

No one else was in the area except for a few members of the Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF), a ragtag band of militiamen supported by the planters to defend their land from communist guerrillas and bandits holed up in the mountains.

The presence of the CHDF provides insight into the power that Benedicto and the other Marcos supercronies once wielded over the island — and much of the rest of the country. It was the CHDF that made up the private armies that Benedicto and the other warlords could then command behind a cover of legitimacy. They looted homes, exacted payoffs and, along with regular army troops and PC members, engaged in "salvaging" — a euphemism to describe the execution of suspected New People's Army insurgents. The communist guerrilla army numbers about 16,000 and operates in almost every province.

On orders from Marcos' successor, Corazon Aquino, General Ramos has told the PC and the army to recover all arms issued to the CHDF and the supercronies. The hunters have become the hunted.

His private planes have long since whisked Benedicto away to exile. But the empty offices of his Philippine Sugar Commission and the National Sugar Trading

TOP: A painting of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos still hangs in the city hall at Laoag City, Philippines.

LEFT: The Philippine armed forces have been charged with cleaning up the private armies as well as trying to control the NPA.

Corporation remain. The headquarters buildings, beyond a few hundred yards of sugar cane, are vacant except for a few grinning private guards with badges saying "Royal Protective" — still another Benedicto force.

We roared through a countryside shimmering in the scorching sun, searching for the great haciendas behind whose tall walls lurked diehard elements of the private armies. I was after not only the forces of RHB — the initials by which everyone refers to Benedicto — but also those of the other two top supercronies, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and Armando "Armin" Gustillo.

We didn't really expect to see the big men themselves — they had fled before Aquino took power. Benedicto safely got out before Marcos toppled, while Cojuangco and his family climbed aboard the same U.S. Air Force jet that carried Marcos and his family to safety in Hawaii. As for Gustillo, he had gone into hiding within the sprawling fortress from which he still claimed to govern Negros del Norte, the island's new northern province, cut out by Marcos specifically as a favor for his friend.

As these once-powerful men fell from power, they left behind men and women caught between confusion and relief, and the sense that life might get a lot worse before it gets better.

"We are moving out today because we have no more food," said Philippine Constabulary Sergeant Julio Teson, in charge of 16 men holed up in a guardhouse overlooking one of Cojuangco's estates. We stood on the lower slopes of the Canlaon volcano, serenely cool, several thousand feet above the coastal flatlands.

"We are in danger here," he went on, looking over his shoulder toward the volcano. Beyond the next ridge, he told me, are NPA guerrillas. "We cannot go there. It is very dangerous."

The sergeant wouldn't say if his troops were official CHDF members or an informal security cadre. But outside the entrance one of the men told me that most of them were private soldiers for Cojuangco. The guard house was a small fort, lined with cement and sandbags, far better made than any of the flimsy PC or army outposts I'd seen. Just below it was a helicopter pad surrounded by flowers.

Roosters crowed as we walked down the slope. Hundreds of them were tied to stalls, each with a small shelter. I walked between rows of roosters to a shed where several sinewy, tough-looking men eyed me suspiciously. At least 1,000 fighting cocks were ready for sale at \$100 apiece. "It's better to breed fighting cocks than to plant sugar here," one of the men explained. "Sugar prices are too low." He suggested I go to Hacienda Candelaria, the center of Cojuangco's activities on the entire island. There I might find some of the old warlord's men.

We found the hacienda far down the slopes, on a side road in the midst of sugar



COUNTERFEIT GUNS

The venerable warlord happily boasted of his power as he sat in his fiefdom in Danao on the island of Cebu in the Philippines. "For 60 years I am in politics," said Ramon Durano, short, stocky, still tough-looking at 80. "My time in this life is almost over. I am utilizing the rest of my life for the next life. I believe in the reality of eternity."

His gentlemanly magnanimity was overshadowed by the huge sugar mills nearby that made him one of the richest, strongest men in the Philippines. But one message came through loud and clear: "There is no party here. There is only Ramon Durano. When I say vote for someone, they will vote for him."

Arms and money backed up Durano's power, but he claims his gunmen now number only 80, all guards on the payroll of his Insular Security Company. He admits to having 5,000 people working for him — someone in just about every family in the community of 60,000. So deep, so far-reaching is his authority that he no longer needs mobs of gunmen to preserve law, order and basic security. He can call upon any able-bodied male he knows to protect him from occasional opposition politicians, leftist organizers and other public nuisances — meaning anyone who might be foolish enough to think of shooting it out for a piece of his business or terrain.

The evidence of Durano's wealth and power are everywhere. But nothing illustrates his confidence in that power more than the flourishing gun-making industry he has allowed to exist. Virtually every other house churns out counterfeit U.S. brand-name revolvers for sale around the world.

"It is a home industry," Durano stated, deprecatingly, with his usual air of child-like innocence. "I told them it is illegal. I cannot prevent the people. They make guns instead of making baskets."

Sure. Isn't he the least afraid that some of these characters will start shooting it out among themselves — or arming some of his enemies? No way. "We don't have the army or Philippine Constabulary here," he said, meaning he wouldn't let them set up posts in the area. "We have no salvaging."

On down the beach, in little thatched

A flourishing cottage industry exists in Danao, one that turns out counterfeit guns of every type engraved with realistic trademarks and "Made in USA."

fishermen's huts, a kid offered me a shiny black "Colt" revolver for the equivalent of \$50. No thanks.

I wandered among the huts and discovered a "factory" that assembles firearms. It was a backyard workshop at which a young man fitted the pieces together with hand tools. "Made in USA," was inscribed on a pretty pistol that went for about \$30, more realistic than the previous offer but probably still high. "Smith & Wesson, Springfield, Mass.," the inscription read.

In the center of town, another entrepreneur showed off his own unique invention — a homemade assault rifle that held an M16 magazine and fired on automatic or semi-automatic. It was just a demo model, though. "I have made only one," he said. "I am still testing."

A couple of blocks away I met Rogelio Durano, who assured me he was not related to the ruling Durano. Rogelio's specialty was cutting imprints. "National Magnum," "Government Model Colt," "Sturm, Ruger & Co." "It's just a matter of what kind you want," he beamed, showing how it was done. He then produced sheets of statistics that revealed the importance of the industry to the entire community, including the warlord himself.

About 750 craftsmen and 375 assistants turned out 3,500 pieces a month for sale at about \$25 each for a gross income of more than \$1 million yearly. But that's not all. A grand total of about 40,000 people are involved, full and part-time, including the craftsmen who carve the beautiful wooden stocks for some of the pistols, gluers who apply protective coating to the finished products, engravers who do the logos and designs on the metal, as well as an army of runners.

The easiest way to start a civil revolt in this town, it seems, would be to try to shut down the gun trade. "We will fight to the last," said Rogelio. "The manufacture of guns will go on."

Nor does the warlord Durano have any fear for the future. "Danao is a peaceful town," he smiled, "and I am the peacemaker."

MURDER CITY

It happens almost every day. An anonymous voice calls up Joe Velasco, manager of radio station DXMF, and tells him to hurry over to the scene. Like a typical metropolitan police reporter, he hustles off in his van. He knows more or less what to expect. "There's the body, hands tied, no ID," explained Velasco. "Maybe it's simple retaliation — or another *salvaging*," a euphemism for political execution.

Velasco, in charge of the little station for eight years, has albums of photographs to document his experience and attest to the reputation of Davao City, a sprawling, brawling enclave on the southeastern coast of Mindanao. Locals know it better as "murder city."

The bodies lie in all poses, some with clean bullet marks, victims of vengeance by the communist New People's Army (NPA), others hacked and stomped and bludgeoned in Philippine military-style salvaging. Many of these victims are dumped in salvage dumps, hence the term.

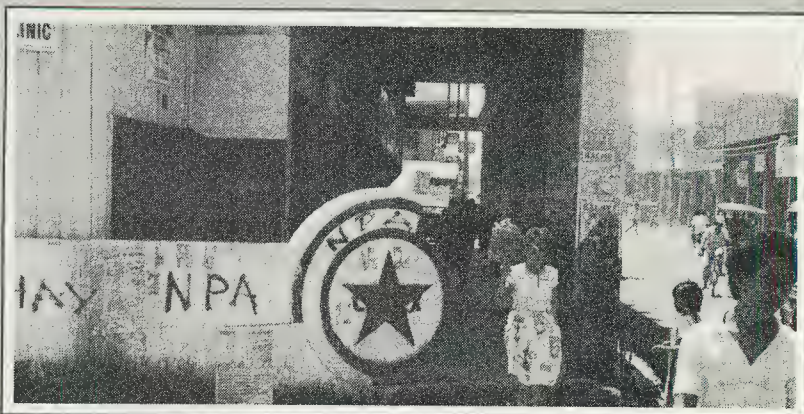
Not even Velasco and his veteran reporters can explain the pervasive violence. There were 848 politically related homicides in 1985, and the 1986 trend indicates no let-up.

Neither side is very popular among the ordinary citizenry, but the animosity is based less on politics than on practical matters of everyday survival. "The people have no use for the NPA and no use for the government because both steal their chickens," said the Reverend Paul Firster, a transplanted Long Islander who's been teaching here for more than 20 years.

The NPA has targeted Davao, a crowded city of about 600,000 surrounded by farmland and forest, as one of its first objectives. NPA "sparrow units" terrorize the people in search of likely assassination victims. I found the signs of their presence painted in red on nearly every wall in the city's squalid Agdao district. "Bullets, not Ballots," read one of the slogans. "Army, Join the NPA," and "Mabuhay NPA," lauded a third, meaning, "Long Live the NPA."

At one intersection was the burnt-out shell of a police station, torched by guerrillas and never rebuilt. Propaganda units wandered the streets nightly, preaching simple lessons to audiences too intimidated to report them. "They do not talk about communism but the present condition of the country," said a local resident. "They talk about high prices and government harassment."

Turning down a fetid alley toward the docks, I wandered into Barrio Bagunbuhay, literally "Barrio New Life." It's more popularly known as "Barrio



Red splashes of NPA graffiti are painted on nearly every wall of Davao City.

Death." The latter name seemed more appropriate. The Philippine Constabulary (PC) and the NPA have killed so many "sympathizers" of one side or the other that hardly anyone wants to talk.

"This is a squatter area," said Rolando Oculan, manager of DXRH, a public service radio station on the edge of the barrio. "People have nowhere to go." The initials NPA were splashed in huge red letters on the back wall of the station. "Maybe something could happen to us, so to avoid misunderstanding we leave it that way."

The PC has also done its share of antagonizing the people by running a program of "military zoning" — marking certain areas for operations, rummaging through everything in sight and rounding up people for questioning. The PC planted NPA "returnees" as spies, disguising them as vendors. Those pinpointed as NPA organizers by these government infiltrators were "salvaged."

The people, however, still "sympathize with the NPA," reported one resident. "If there's an offensive person, the NPA kills him. It's called *Jues de Kutsilyo* — 'Justice of the Knife.'" Sometimes NPA agents are known to

make their point by "liquidation in daylight, using their guns before a lot of people."

The NPA "are recruiting," the Reverend John Doterweich, a Jesuit missionary from New York, told me. "The more unemployment, the more danger that people will (join) them."

But the government is taking steps to clean up its act. The Reverend Emeterio Barcelon, president of Ateneo of Davao, the city's leading university, told me that the marines, the PCs and the army have tried to ferret out the bad eggs, putting over 20 government offenders in the stockade. Marine patrols in the surrounding rural areas have cut down NPA infiltration. The marines' Third Brigade commander, Colonel Rudolf Biazon, responsible for much of the metropolitan area, claimed that the company-sized NPA guerrilla units left for the nearby mountains early this year. Now small groups of kids in their teens carrying hand grenades and pistols try to indoctrinate the peasant farmers. "They ask for protection money. They intimidate other people into supporting the movement. They make an example by killing people."

With NPA leaders split between pro-Soviet and Maoist factions, between advocates of straight terror and slow proselytizing, Col. Biazon's 1,500

marines patrol the villages and forests with little fear of ambush. "Before people would not talk," said Lieutenant Achilles Sogumalian, as he led a dozen men through coconut plantations along a stream. "They don't want to be seen with us." He stopped to offer condolences to some men building a child's coffin. "Dayao City is the worst in the Philippines," he continued, "but the NPA has failed here. This is their experiment station."

The odds against living a normal life are much worse north of the city, along a stretch of highway in the hill country patrolled by Task Group Panther. Soldiers reported ambushes and minings almost daily, and people in remote marketplaces do not bother to disguise their sympathy with the communists.

"Elements within the government are still harassing some people," said a young man wearing dark sunglasses in a small restaurant at a place called Baranguay KingKing. "The way the NPA treats the people is humanitarian. There is more equal distribution." He spoke so highly of the communists that there could be little doubt that he was one of them.

"I was formerly a sales supervisor," he went on, writing what was probably a code name, Arseng Morial, in my notebook, "but I found out there was exploitation, so I quit my job" — a highly unlikely story among a people desperate for food and money. Certainly, he continued, the NPA "ask for help" but "not taxes." The guerrillas, he insisted, "are roaming around, getting in touch with the people." "Last year," added another man at the table "there was a peaceful dialogue with the guerrillas asking support from the people."

Although the NPA was easy enough for me to look up, some of the government troops had a problem finding them. Back down the road, a PC captain with "Ranger" and "Jungle Fighter" patches on his fatigues, told me he had "no idea where the NPA was," and pointed vaguely toward the range of hills behind us. "They are beyond that," he said.

Another 30 miles down the road, I ran into the task force commander, Colonel Marcello Blando. "The NPA are all over," he admitted. "They're just waiting for orders from their headquarters." Blando relaxed on the front porch of a ramshackle headquarters complex protected by little more than barbed wire and a few T-shirted troops. He had just returned from the scene of an ambush in which six of his men were killed. "The people reported groups of NPA roaming around, imposing taxes, asking for five pesos, about 25 cents, apiece and one liter of rice," he said. "They are afraid."

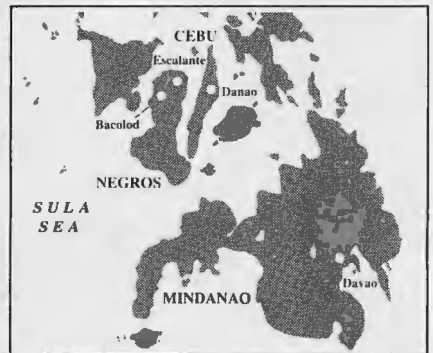
plantations. The high concrete walls, topped by barbed wire, rose silently around an estate that might by now be deserted. The metal gate was closed, but someone opened a door beside it and let me in. Inside were campaign posters for Marcos and a jeep with a sign in white letters: "Jungle Fighters." It was not clear who was fighting whom. Soldiers — or rather men in varying uniforms — lounged sullenly beneath the roof of a house by the gate. Some of them clutched M16s. One was armed only with a guitar.

Apparently members of the army and the PC were there, as were militia members and private security forces. On orders from General Ramos, the Army and PC troopers had told the CHDF and private security guards to turn over a cache of weapons that Cojuangco had piled up inside the hacienda. Tension was evident, but government

Continued on page 85

BELOW: Armin Gustillo's private soldiers guard the sprawling fortress from which he still claims to control the island of Negros del Norte.

BOTTOM: Philippine warlord Ramon Durano's wealth and power is strong and widespread throughout Danao, on the island of Cebu.



BEIRUT



Christian Soldiers Man the Green Line

Text & Photos by Dale Andradé

SERENE, almost like any other neighborhood street scene. Children pedal by on bicycles, their shouts of glee audible after their racing shapes dart around the corner. Wrinkled old women lug overstuffed shopping bags to their apartments after a day at the market. Men sit in the shadows of open doorways, lost in contemplation over *the next* move in a backgammon game.

But in Beirut, appearances can be deadly deceptive.

Just a couple hundred meters west of this idyllic scene, the neighborhood charm gives way to a sinister tension. Nothing moves. Hulking skeletons of bombed and shattered buildings hint of bygone grandeur, when Beirut was still referred to as the Paris of the Middle East. But the sounds of gay prosperity have fled, replaced by the staccato burst of automatic weapons and the resounding boom of an RPG. Good times past are but a ghost, glimpsed in the occasional fleeting form of a soldier sprinting between gutted buildings; stark against a tortured cityscape, then gone. Stillness returns.

This zone of abject destruction divides the Christians in east Beirut from their enemies in Muslim west Beirut. Welcome to the Green Line.

Beirut's Green Line is a no-man's land, a real-life version of the movie *Escape from New York*, a terrible reminder of man's willingness to fight over any cause at any price. Religious feuding is one of the few constants in Lebanon's history; Christians and Muslims battling over hearts and minds as well as territory.

ABOVE: War's rubble provides cover for this LF militiaman as he faces his Muslim enemies in west Beirut.

RIGHT: Moving through the wreckage of the Green Line, a MAG gunner searches for a place to set up his weapon.

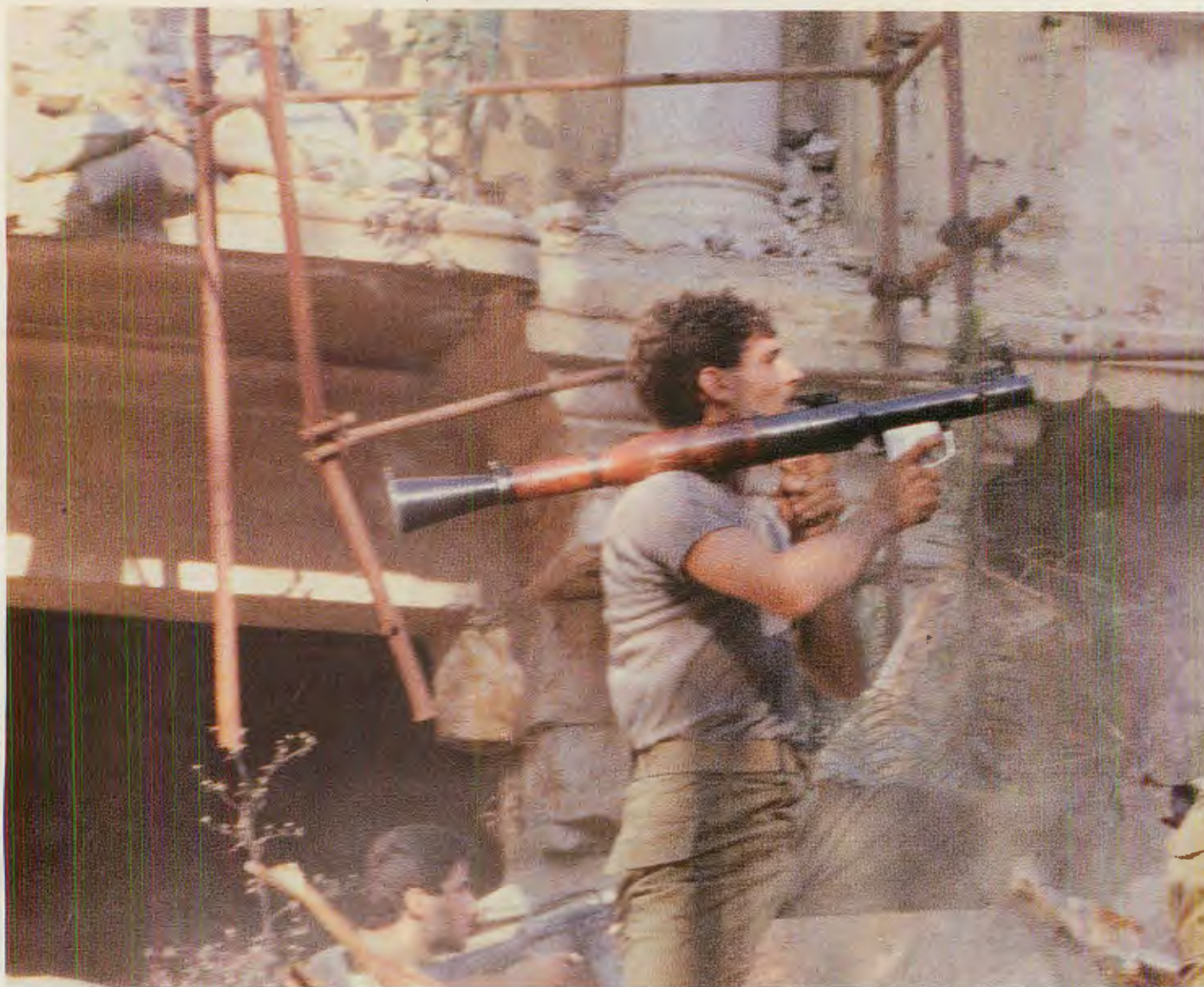
Lebanon's rugged high country looms directly over the coast, a refuge from oppression for thousands of years. Soldiers and conquerors since the beginning of civilization have marched across this coastal sliver, strategically located in the eastern Mediterranean. Early Christians fled the wrath of Islam in the seventh century, choosing a life in the mountains over religious persecution under the heel of the militant Muslims. After a few hundred years Lebanon became home to dozens of religious communities, a veritable museum of the Middle East's losers in the fight for political and religious ascendancy.

Path To Anarchy

Lebanon was doomed to outside meddling since its formal independence in 1943. France granted Lebanon's freedom at the territorial expense of Greater Syria. To the Syrians, as well as to many Lebanese Muslims who initially felt a greater identification with Syria, Lebanon was a bastard creation. Syria refused to recognize Lebanese sovereignty in any direct fashion. For example, Syria opened no embassy in Beirut.

Over the years, the two nations traveled increasingly divergent paths. Lebanon opted for republicanism and economic laissez faire; Syria adopted radical political and military





solutions to its perceived problems. And while Lebanon clung to a notion of its "special status" in the Arab world, Syria saw itself as the epicenter of Arabism, as she had once been in the seventh and eighth centuries. This set the historical stage for Lebanon's present anarchy.

By the 1950s, the schism between and among Christian and Muslim factions began to seriously erode the central government's authority. Militias — mostly elaborate bodyguard units for the various warlords — were mustered all over the country. Two of the most notable leaders in Lebanese Christian society were Pierre Gemayel and Camille Chamoun, both of whom rose to the position of prime minister in later years.

Lebanon's most serious troubles began in the mid-1970s. Events since then have made Beirut synonymous with a new and still-emerging form of warfare: political and religious terrorism is the academic description; random, mindless violence is a more accurate definition.

Conventional scholars tell us that the civil war began 13 April 1975, when Christian militia of the Kataeb Party massacred 26 Palestinians in a bus outside a church in Ayn al-Rummana. In reality, the war had already begun. Some argue that it actually began with independence from colonial rule. But the massacre focused world attention on a long-simmering conflict that had finally boiled over into wholesale bloodshed. The violence no longer was isolated. Lebanon unmistakably was torn by civil war.

That war supposedly ended in 1977. But in reality it goes on.

Lebanese countersniper team: AKs and an RPG-7 blast away at Amal snipers.

The families of 241 U.S. Marines who died there in 1983 will testify to that. The Lebanese army, made up of Christians and Muslims, degenerated into various sectarian components. The Lebanese Forces (LF), an umbrella organization for various Christian militias, rose out of necessity to fill the vacuum of authority.

From mid-1976, the militias of Gemayel's Phalangist Party and Chamoun's National Liberal Party, which formed the backbone of the Christian forces, were commanded respectively by their sons, Bashir Gemayel and Dany Chamoun. Today, the trend is toward a more centralized militia with the ultimate goal being a joint command for liaison between Lebanese army and militia units.

But as the various forces jockeyed for control of real estate and political influence — sometimes Christian against Christian, Muslim against Muslim — Lebanon slid deeper into anarchy, further from an effective government.

Large parts of Lebanon are now occupied by Syria and much Christian land has been stolen and occupied by the Druze. Beirut, the capital city, is sharply divided along religious battle lines. But life goes on in the midst of daily death. Crowds of shoppers push and shove their way through downtown east Beirut looking for a bargain. Lebanese traffic jams, known the world over, still clog the coastal highway between Beirut and



Jounieh. The occasional car bomb or artillery bombardment punctuates the reality of life in Lebanon. Then the dust clears and life resumes under the wail of ambulances. In Beirut there's one fact of life. Death can come anytime, anyplace.

The Green Line

Nowhere in Lebanon is the religious and political conflict more sharply contrasted than by the no-man's land that divides east and west Beirut known as the Green Line. To go there is to arrive in another world. It is Verdun and Stalingrad rolled into one. Christians and Muslims eyeball each other over fixed gun positions — a sort of urban trenchline — within this ghost town centered between two bustling sub-cities. Sandbagged tunnels and building-top sniper nests conjure up images of urban European street fighting in World War II.

But there is a bizarre twist. This war is stagnant on the Green Line although people still die here. A Christian soldier on guard duty in a sandbagged machine-gun position put it in perspective. "This is the only war where you can fight, walk a few hundred meters into town and sit down for a pizza."

The Green Line defies definition.

My trip to the front was relatively easy — and hair-raising. My driver took me there as off-handedly as he might have driven me to the chamber of commerce. To ride in a car in Beirut is an experience. To drive there would be insane. Automobiles rush in an apparently random blur of blaring horns and screeching tires down the coastal highway. To the uninitiated it seems as if cars in Lebanon have their horns and

brakes cross-wired. It's 70 mph bedlam on asphalt. Yes, *Road Warriors* does come to mind.

As the highway rises up on concrete pylons and slips into the Muslim section of town, heavy traffic thins out like magic. There is little chance of accidentally driving into the Muslim sector, though. An army roadblock keeps unwary motorists out of the danger zone. Unlike my LF driver, most natives choose safer approaches to the Green Line. They see no reason to run this shell-pocked gauntlet. But my driver no doubt wanted to impress the new guy in town. He did.

As he punched the accelerator to the floor and began a screeching zig-zag toward an army roadblock, it dawned on me that this might not be a Triple-A approved route. My fears were confirmed as I looked out to see our car zipping between small shell craters and chunks of asphalt, big-bore testimony to random Muslim shells lobbed over the Green Line. If this weren't enough, battered buildings of the western edge of the Muslim frontline loomed over us. This was the pointy end of Indian country; sniper heaven.

Our car cut a sharp left at the roadblock and skirted along the road closest to the Green Line. Soldiers and civilians who frequent this area instinctively know all the angles of fire from potential sniper positions. Streets running east-west over the green line were blocked off by 10-foot dirt berms or huge rectangular steel cargo boxes hauled up from the shipyards and stacked on top of each other. Gigantic walls of these boxes lined the streets, the jagged patterns of bullet holes in the steel



CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

Instability is the only constant in Lebanese life these days. Their economy, lifestyle and government have faded into mere shadows of an affluent past. One would think the military would be a constant in such a wartorn country, but in Christian Lebanon, even that has failed.

During the mid-1970s, the Lebanese government lost control. Religious and political strife ripped the social fabric. Nothing was left untouched, not even the army. Various military units chose sides, leaving the central government with no means of enforcing its authority.

Enter the Christian militias.

The militias had been around informally since the 1960s, but they reached a do-or-die point in 1976. The rival Christian militia factions had to set aside their differences in favor of more formal cooperation or face defeat by their Muslim counterparts.

Although they are by no means completely consolidated, the Christian militias have maintained enough cohesiveness to evolve into a vital aspect of survival for Christian Lebanon. These far-flung citizen soldiers reorganized into the Lebanese Forces (LF), the official name for the Christian militias. As a result, morale and combat efficiency improved markedly. The LF continues to be a major factor in the battle against the Syrian-controlled Muslim militias.

True to its militia heritage, however, the LF is more of a citizen army than a professional military institution. Many in the LF ranks hold civilian jobs or attend college while they are serving. There is no traditional rank structure as such. Authority is commensurate with the amount of responsibility assigned to the commanders and other members in a unit.

Manpower organization is more formal, based on a traditional military model of brigade, battalion, company, platoon and squad. Most in the ranks are infantrymen, but the LF also has limited armor and artillery assets. LF armor is comprised mainly of Super-Shermans, AMX-13s and Panhard armored cars.

The LF infantry carry primarily Soviet-bloc small arms, mostly purchased from Israel. An alpine brigade for mountain warfare, a corp of engineers and a small navy round-out LF assets.

The LF once could field 18,000 troops, but its strength is down to about 8,000 men. This manpower decline is attributed directly to Amin Gemayel's rise to power as national president.

On alert: Lebanese Forces watch for enemy movement.

His plan called for the Lebanese army to take on the responsibility of defending the Christian population. Unfortunately, Gemayel proved ineffective and the Lebanese Forces have begun to rebuild their strength in anticipation of a new policy for Christian security.

The mission of the LF is simple — rid Lebanon of all foreign armies. Although not an easy task, the LF is prepared to wage war against not only the irregular forces on the Green Line, but also against regular armies such as Syria, or possibly Israel. In the past six or seven years, the LF has begun training for rural battle environments. This was a big change in doctrine for the LF, which had almost exclusive experience in urban street fighting. It also points to a change in strategy. The Christians expect the next war to take place in the countryside.

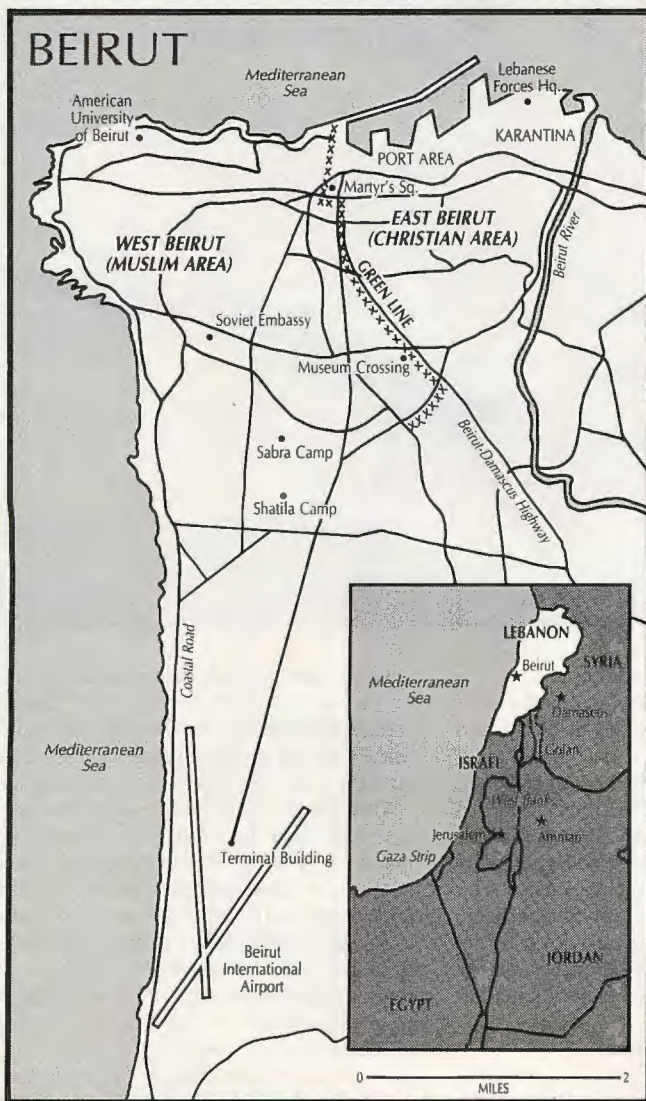
Since the LF can be expected to be inferior to the enemy in terms of manpower and firepower, it must adapt accordingly. Terrain is the foremost concern of the LF and they are trained to take full advantage of Lebanon's rugged countryside. Terrain also dictates weapons procurement. Mortars take precedence over heavier artillery because they are more mobile and easier to shield against air attack. Anti-tank weapons — mostly Milans and TOWs — enable the LF to challenge enemy tank units in the mountains more effectively than a regiment of M-60s or T-72s.

While the majority of the militia's fighters are volunteers, a system of conscription was established in July 1982. The system draws on a two-year preconscription program developed in the secondary schools. It requires all students (male and female) to undergo training on weekends and for 21 days each summer during the junior and senior years of high school. After graduation the conscripts undergo three months of basic training, two months of specialized training and ten months of actual military service.

The Lebanese Christian militias have come a long way since the days when splintered factions fought each other almost as often as they fought their Muslim enemies. With the trend toward working more closely with the army, the Lebanese military might be able to hold its own against the array of Syrian-sponsored forces that seek to splinter Lebanon into oblivion.



Crouching behind a sandbagged barrier, a Christian militiaman scans no-man's land for snipers.



skin providing irrefutable proof of their necessity. In some places, ancient buses and cars were piled up to form a wall 20 feet high. Any material would do when it came to erecting a wall between the Christians and their enemies.

The car drove along the line, speeding up to cross low sections in the street fortifications and slowing down in the sparsely populated residential sections crouched precariously close to the Green Line. Suddenly, we rounded a corner and sped between two gutted apartment buildings.

We were there. One could sense potential danger. You just couldn't see it.

This is Alpha Sector. It is the first area of the Green Line that was under control of the Lebanese Forces. The section from the port area south to Alpha Sector is patrolled by the Lebanese army.

My guide and I walked toward the first LF position. The area had once been a main thoroughfare through the hotel district of Beirut; cratered remnants of broad sidewalks and street-front shops hinted of more prosperous days. The crumbling elegance of French colonial architecture was still evident. Grass and weeds sprouted through cracks in the buildings and sidewalks, opened by artillery bombardments. The Green Line is not heavily manned. Squads of LF militiamen occupy positions at 200-meter intervals, sometimes greater.

Gunfire erupted a few hundred meters away. I expressed an interest in getting a closer look, so my guide led me through the labyrinth of stairwells and fractured living quarters. We made our way into the half-darkness of an old office building, next to a string of row houses, each one linked to the next by a 5-foot hole knocked through the wall. Naked bulbs hung from bare wires provided just enough dim light to make the shadows seem even more sinister.

We heard voices ahead. I rounded the corner through the last hole. A squad of soldiers, obviously preparing for action, suddenly surrounded me. I hope these are good guys, I thought, seeing there would be no chance to run. Only their leader spoke English.

"We have been troubled by a sniper in those buildings," he said to my considerable relief. Thank goodness he had not been troubled by journalists. His hand motioned to a section of ruins that formed a small salient into the Christian lines.

The Muslim Amal militia occupied the area opposite Alpha Sector. Amal is not known for its fire discipline. It's relatively easy to tell who's shooting at you, one soldier explained. The better-trained Palestinians pop off three-shot bursts and then move to a new vantage point. Amal and Hezbollah crank off entire 30-round magazines at anything that moves.

Lebanese Forces troopers are armed mainly with AKs of almost every conceivable variety: Polish, Czech, Egyptian, Romanian, Soviet and Chinese models. AKs with folding stocks were the obvious preference. They maneuver better in the confines of this concrete maze, the soldiers will tell you, but there was no mistaking the obvious macho appeal. Also scattered among the LF ranks were FALs and M16s.

The favorite weapon, though, is the RPG. Four RPG-7 launchers leaned against the pock-marked walls, the projectiles strewn about the floor. Considering the small group of soldiers, the ratio of RPGs came out to about one launcher for every five men.

Moments later, a militiaman dressed in Israeli-style fatigues, web gear and flak jacket grabbed an RPG launcher, rammed a rocket home and armed it. He sauntered off toward a dirt berm outside our building, followed by three other soldiers with their AKs slung in the assault position.

Sensing trouble, I tagged along.

"We're going to knock the sniper out of that building," the commander said, pointing to a half-collapsed building. Back out

Continued on page 88

SOF WEAPONS SYSTEMS

LA FRANCE SPECIAL

MOST people associate silencers with the little black tubes James Bond and Napoleon Solo screwed on the barrels of their respective pistols when fighting agents from T.H.R.U.S.H. or Spectre. Their knowledge and understanding of these devices ends there, in the realm of Hollywood fiction. But even those with just a cursory interest in weapons exotica should know just what should be expected of a good sound suppressor.

Effective silencer design is keyed to the specific weapon and ammunition to be paired with the device. Design variations in the weapon itself and the way that weapon operates can make silencer design very simple or extremely complex. Likewise, high-velocity ammunition, with its attendant high pressures and combustion temperatures, requires different techniques of silencer construction than do subsonic rounds.

These combined factors make it desirable for the designer to approach his problem as a weapon system of three basic components: weapon, ammunition and silencer. Concentrating solely on the construction of the "can," or silencer body, leads to less than optimum performance.

In developing such a weapon system, three operational requirements should be kept in mind:

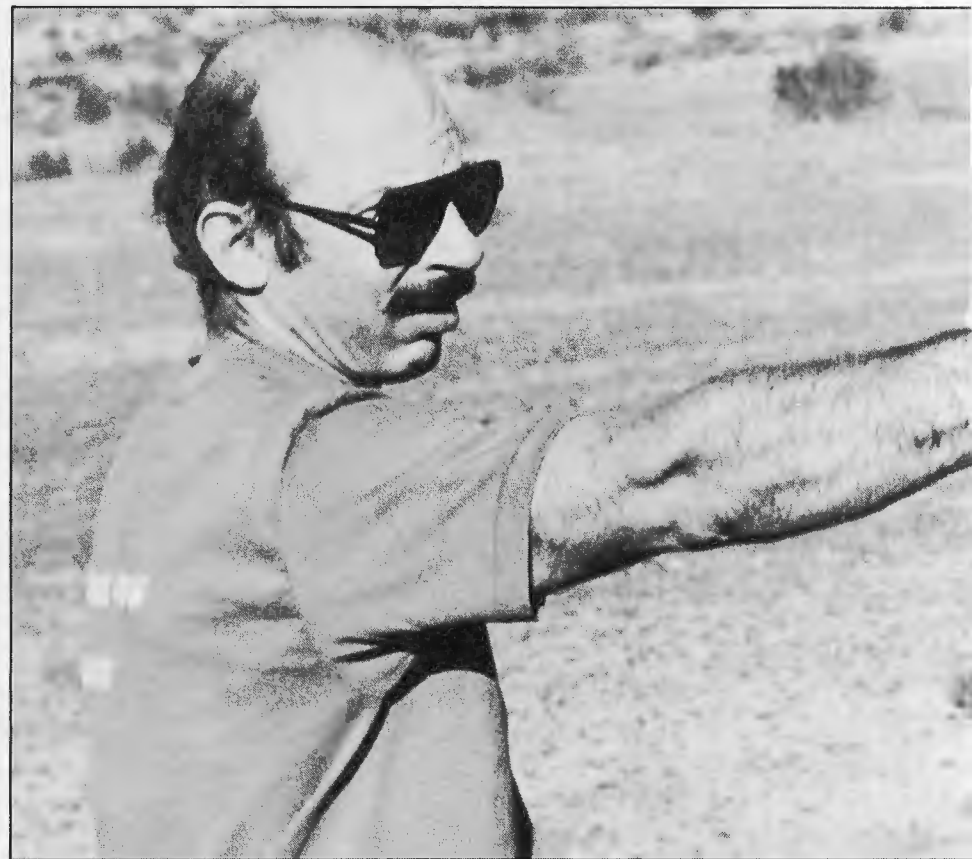
- 1) When silenced, the weapon should also function reliably, and with readily available ammo.
- 2) A good silencer will withstand several thousand continuous rounds of fire with no increase in noise level or muzzle flash.
- 3) The silencer should be detachable if feasible. A permanently attached silencer decreases the weapon's flexibility significantly.

The Gun

For use with its .22 silencer, La France Specialties has standardized the Ruger semi-auto pistol, starting with either the 6-inch standard barrel or the 5½-inch bull barrel. The Ruger is an ideal choice for a silenced pistol. The fixed barrel not only gives excellent accuracy, but provides a sturdy mount for the silencer. Action noise is minimal and the shrouded, lightweight bolt virtually eliminates breech flash and blowback in the operator's face.

The barrel length is shortened to 5 inches, and the diameter is reduced. External threads are cut into the barrel just ahead of the receiver to accept the silencer. Four rows of .046-inch diameter bleed holes are then drilled into the barrel. These holes reduce gas pressure to a level that keeps the projectile subsonic and also routes some of the hot gases into the silencer's expansion chamber for cooling.

Many silencer manufacturers use .062-inch or larger bleed holes. A widely-held misconception is that small holes become clogged easily. Gas pressure actually keeps them open. And larger holes tend to strip material from the bullet, upsetting spin



trajectory, thus reducing accuracy.

A unique feature of this gun is the steel shroud that can be installed in lieu of the silencer. The shroud is machined to the same dimensions as the bull barrel and has a front sight affixed. When the shroud is attached, the pistol looks and performs exactly like a stock, bull-barreled Ruger. This is useful for law enforcement agencies. The pistol can be issued to the individual officer, who is then free to practice with it at his convenience, while the silencer is kept under lock and key until a tactical situation warrants its use.

The Ammo

Remington Golden Bullets are the preferred choice in .22 Long Rifle high-

velocity ammunition. Clean burning and producing minimal leading, they have a standard deviation lower than the other brands of .22 ammo except match grade. And they are available almost anywhere.

Other brands of standard or high-velocity long rifle cartridges (40-grain bullet only, please) will work. But their powders may not burn as clean. And many bullets lead the bore excessively. Worst of all, some have too great a variation in velocity from round to round. If the variation is too high, some rounds might reach supersonic velocities in spite of the barrel venting, thereby causing an embarrassing supersonic "crack." Hyper-velocity rounds, such as Viper and Yellowjacket should be avoided because these

by Stanley C. Crist

A Sound Choice for Silencers

CE TIES

BELOW: Tim La France fires a Ruger equipped with his company's silencer.

INSET: Ruger .22 with barrel shroud installed. The La France Specialties silencer is on top.

BOTTOM: Ruger .22 with vented barrel. Shroud and silencer shown detached.

ultra-lightweight bullets cannot usually be held to subsonic velocities. In the silenced Ruger, Remington 40-grain bullets will hold 1000fps \pm 25fps.

The Silencer

This design is straightforward when compared to other silencers. There is an expansion chamber filled with copper mesh that surrounds the drilled portion of the barrel. Following this is a diffuser plate, then a half-spherical mixing chamber and three subsequent spherical combustion chambers.

When the gun is fired, some of the high-temperature gases pass through the bleed holes into the expansion chamber. By expanding into this larger area, the velocity of the gases is slowed and their temperature begins to drop. They are cooled even further when they contact the copper mesh. Copper conducts heat as well as electricity.

The cooled gases then pass through the holes in the diffuser plate, into the half-spherical mixing chamber. There they mix with the hot gases that have followed the bullet out of the barrel, dampening the combustion process. The cooled, but still burning, gases flow into and through each of the three combustion chambers. The turbulence created by the spherical shape slows the gases to subsonic speed and also allows complete burning of the propellant inside the silencer.

The three-and-a-half spherical chambers give the same degree of quieting as 12 or 13 of the conical or parabolic baffles traditionally used. The noise level is reduced to that of a pellet gun, about 70-72 dB in semi-auto, or 68 dB if the bolt is held shut. Breech and muzzle flash are virtually nonexistent.

The acid test of a silencer is to fire several shots in quick succession — if the noise level increases, the can has too much restriction. A good design will allow free flow of the gases and still be quiet.

The clearance hole for the bullet is made large enough (.236 inch) so there is no chance of the projectile touching any part of the silencer. As a result, the accuracy potential of the pistol is not degraded by having the can attached.

If anything, the shooter's ability to hit the target is *enhanced* by the longer sight radius, added weight and the lack of muzzle flash and report. This is fortunate, given the tactical situations in which silencer use is usually necessary. A one-shot stop with the .22 requires a head shot, whether one is taking out a battlefield sentry or neutralizing a terrorist gunman.

This design meets the criteria. It delivers quiet accuracy with over-the-counter ammo. It requires cleaning no more often than every 5,000 rounds. And the pistol can be fired without the can attached.

For more information, qualified buyers may contact: La France Specialties, P.O. Box 178211, San Diego, CA 92117. ✕



THE END OF Pastora Gives Up the Fight

EDÉN

Text & Photos by Steve Salisbury

THE war is over for Edén Pastora. On 16 May 1986 he gave up fighting and crossed the San Juan River into Costa Rica with some 160 rag-tag followers seeking political asylum from government authorities there. Thus ended the three year military campaign of the legendary Commander Zero, Nicaragua's famous freedom fighter, against the Soviet-backed, Sandinista regime in Managua.

Blaming the cutoff of U.S. aid to his forces over the last two years for his decision to quit fighting, Pastora also gave part of the credit to CIA efforts undermining his movement. Pastora publicly declared what CIA analysts and State Department officials have told Congressional committees behind closed doors: It is impossible for the anti-Sandinista rebels in their present condition to topple the Sandinista government. Rather than send freedom fighters to die in vain, Pastora, who came to public attention in

BELOW: Crossing the San Juan: Contras wade through a ford as they move into Sandinista territory.



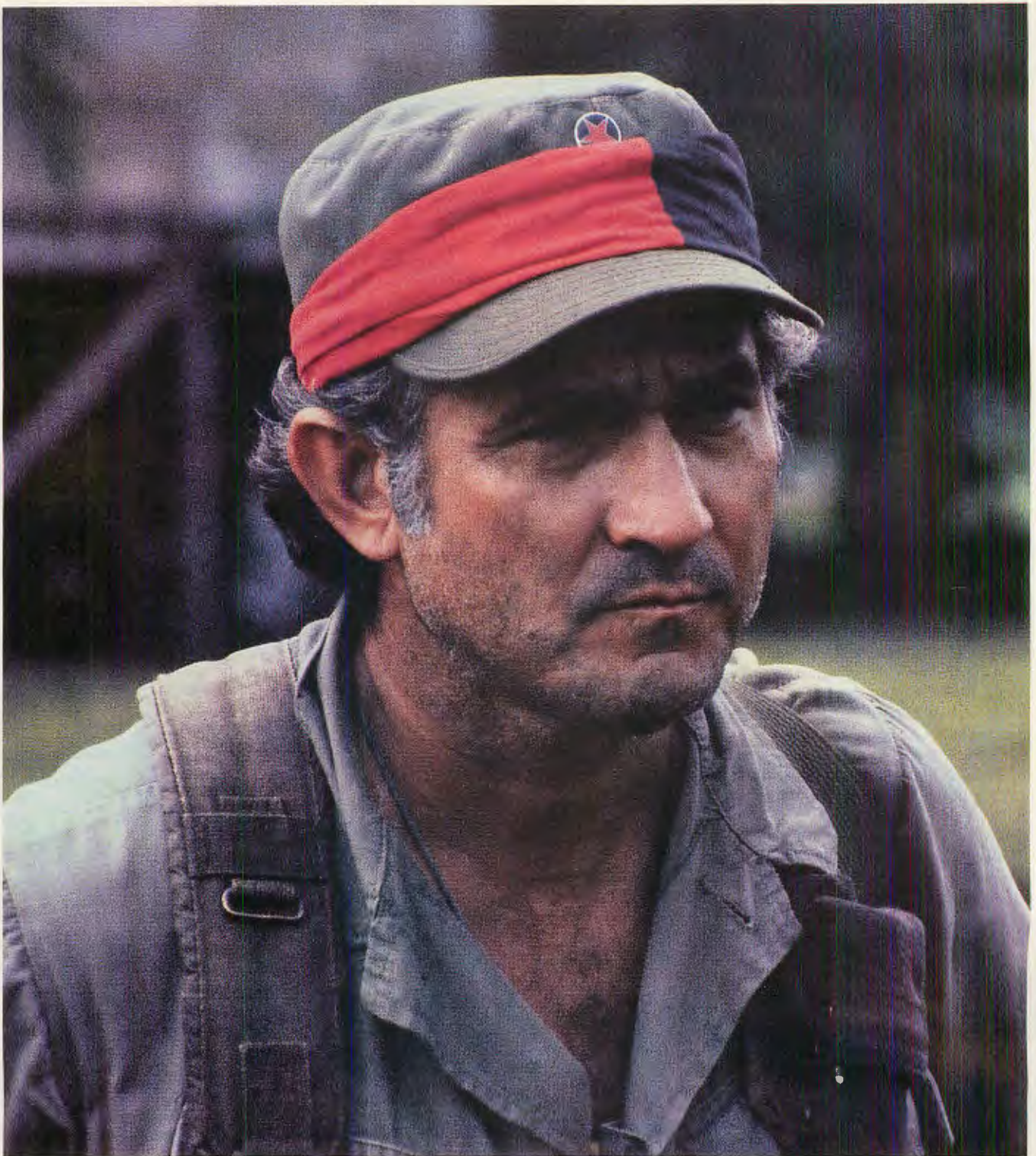
ABOVE: Much of this contra's time is spent packing supplies into remote base camps.

August of 1978 when he stormed the Nicaraguan National Palace during the revolution that overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza, vowed to continue a political struggle in exile against communist tyranny in Nicaragua. As of this writing, Pastora waits in jail near the Costa Rican capital of San José as Costa Rican authorities consider his asylum request.

During their first year of combat, beginning 1 May 1983, the freedom fighters of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance

(ARDE) unified in a southern front under Pastora's command and scored several impressive victories. Probably the most important of these was the capture of the small Caribbean port of San Juan del Norte for several days in April 1984. Those were heady days for ARDE whose alleged 4,000 to 6,000 fighters controlled 70 kilometers of the San Juan River bordering Costa Rica and roamed as far as 100 kilometers inside Nicaragua.

Today, the contra southern front is in shambles. Contra sources admit its strength has dropped to several hundred rag-tag guerrillas, not only as a result of the U.S.



Edén Pastora: His fight is over.

aid cutoff, but also because of ARDE's split into several bickering factions. The Sandinistas, detecting the fall in ARDE's fortunes, have waged an effective counterinsurgency operation in Pastora's stomping ground — yet another reason for ARDE's change of fortunes.

Today, the majority of these contras languish in jungle encampments in Costa Rica, evading Costa Rican authorities who have been cracking down on them as part of their government's policy of neutrality. Meanwhile, Sandinista troops, led by Cuban

combat advisers and supported by Soviet-made Mi-24 Hind attack helicopters and heavy artillery, patrol the length of the San Juan River, dogging the few bands of ill-equipped freedom fighters who still brave the Nicaraguan bush.

The Nicaraguan Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARN) of Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro, a small anti-Sandinista faction allied with the contras of the Honduran-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), claims to represent most of the freedom fighters remaining in southern Nicaragua and northern Costa Rica. However, some remnants of Pastora's forces have

continued the armed struggle in independent bands.

Last May I rode with "Coyote," the Indian commander of one of these bands, to take food and supplies to his troops along the San Juan River. After traveling the muddy, almost impassable roads of Costa Rica's lush, northern countryside we spent a rainy night in the home of a *campesino* family a few clicks downstream from a Sandinista border detachment. Coyote was from the Rama tribe, which forms part of Nicaragua's predominately Miskito Indian population in the eastern region of the country. We were joined by about a dozen guerrillas,



dressed in a combination of military uniforms and civilian clothes and carrying M14 or AK automatic assault rifles.

Packing up sacks of beans, flour and boxes of Nestle's condensed milk, we began our march to the jungle encampment. We arrived there within an hour and a half and were greeted by about a dozen or so guerrillas lying in hammocks under canopies of plastic sheets that appeared to have been cut from large heavy-duty trash bags. Some were cleaning their M14s or AKs. Some listened to music through the static of a cheap radio. Others just sat.

Coyote claimed he commanded a mix of 90 Indians, black Creoles and Latinos, including boys as young as 13 and men as old as 56. Four years of combat cost him 42 dead and eight wounded, he said sadly. These freedom fighters were living under miserable conditions in the muddy, mosquito-infested wilderness.

One had malaria. Others had bronchial infections. But there was no medicine, they

BELOW: A few women remain in the ranks of the southern front contras.



ABOVE: The struggle will go on: Determination to win clearly shows in this contra's face.

said. According to Coyote, his men near Bluefields suffered much more. "They in rags," he said in his broken Caribbean English. "Some go with no shoes. They are almost always hungry and most are very sick."

The freedom fighters were bitter. They listen to the Voice of America and know the U.S. Congress voted the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance millions of dollars in aid. But they complained they weren't receiving their share. While insisting his group is now

independent, after being a part of ARDE until Pastora withdrew, Coyote conceded it received a monthly stipend of 4,000 U.S. dollars from the Costa Rican branch of KISAN, a small contra organization of Indians and blacks from Nicaragua's Caribbean coast. With it, they buy food, clothing, medicines and other non-lethal necessities — about \$1.50 a day per man. "It not enough," sputtered Coyote, waving his sportsman's cap for emphasis.

What Coyote and his troops want most are bullets, radios, mortars, machine guns, RPGs and SAMs to give them at least a fighting chance against the Sandinista onslaught. "The only support gun we have

LEFT: Rivers are often the best roads: Dugout canoes carry supplies to contra camps.

is old M79 with three projectiles," said Coyote. No contra I talked to said he possessed more than 200 rounds.

"How can you carry on a war without bullets?" asked a tall mulatto Creole nicknamed Largo, shaking his head.

The guerrillas were particularly angry over the failure of Pastora's men to give them their weapons, military equipment and supplies before they abandoned the war. "What they no give to the Rural Guard of Costa Rica, was burned," said Coyote with disgust.

The Indian commander, a half-dozen of his men and I waded across the turbid, chest-high water of the San Juan River to Nicaraguan soil and the dilapidated huts of what used to be a Pastora encampment. A

couple days earlier Coyote's contras camping there were driven back to Costa Rica by a heavy Sandinista mortar bombardment. Coyote led me to a heap of charred knapsacks, web gear and military clothing he said Pastora's troops had burned. "They smashed these, too," he said, pointing to broken vials of medicine nearby.

"I get frustrated seeing how we are taken advantage of," said Coyote proudly. "Sometimes I feel like leaving the struggle, but we shall continue to fight until we free our homeland."

The next afternoon I returned to San José with Coyote after an exhausting six hour ride by truck and bus.

If the United States stops playing favorites and starts supporting all of Nicaragua's freedom fighters, maybe Coyote's and thousands of other Nicaraguans' dream of a free homeland can someday become a reality. ✕

Even young boys join the ranks of the contras. These troopers carry M14s and an AKM.



PASTORA'S DEMISE

Pastora's decision to stop his guerrilla war against the Sandinistas did not come easy. The last straw came a few days before he asked Costa Rica for political asylum. According to his top aides, the CIA lured six of Pastora's top field commanders and sub-commanders into an affiliation with the U.S.-backed anti-Sandinista umbrella organization United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) and an

Coyote (left) and other contras with supplies burned by Pastora's men when they left Nicaragua.

alliance with Nicaragua's largest contra group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). The bait included promises of financial and "humanitarian" aid.

"The CIA told the FDN to drop them supplies and promised them more to come if they abandoned the comandan-

te," said Comandante Richard, Pastora's officer responsible for logistics and a pilot who flew bombing missions on Managua and the Nicaraguan Pacific port of Corinto in 1983.

"There is no doubt in my mind the Agency tried hard to get his guys," said another well-placed source who allegedly acts as a liaison with the contras in Costa Rica, in reference to the Pastora commanders and sub-commanders.

According to knowledgeable sources, Washington decided to isolate Pastora because of his unpredictability, doubts of his true political alignment and, mainly, for his refusal to unify with the FDN unless former Somoza government officials and National guard officers were removed from its leadership.

"The State Department and the Agency have always given us a lot of trouble," said Carol Prado, a political adviser and long-time friend to Pastora. "Why do we have to play games with the United States. Why can't it just give us the necessary support to win?"

Some U.S. government officials have also asked that question. "Pastora has a point," a political officer in the U.S. Embassy of a Central American country told me last year. "He doesn't have to be our boy. As long as he fights the Sandinistas, he serves our interests."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the United States regretted Comandante Cero's withdrawal from the Nicaraguan civil war, and hoped he would continue his struggle to bring democracy to Nicaragua. Redman denied charges that the United States government actively participated in the demise of Pastora's military movement, saying five million dollars were slated for humanitarian aid to the forces of Nicaraguan's famous freedom fighter.

"False promises," said Comandante Richard. "They have lied to us before."

SOF VIETNAM

MEKONG RIVER RATS

Small Boats
with a Big Mission

by Bill Siuru





Suddenly, the still Vietnamese night is disturbed by flashes of gunfire. A motorized sampan hidden in the dense foliage breaks curfew to dash to the opposite bank of the My Tho River and deliver its load of contraband weapons to a Viet Cong stronghold. Two U.S. Navy PBRs, river patrol boats, give chase with their .50 caliber and M60 machine guns blazing. The Navy's shots are answered by AK-47s and B-40 rockets fired by the Viet Cong on shore. The PBR commander radios for help. Two armed UH-1B Seawolf Huey gunships appear over the horizon. Within a few minutes, the Hueys' .50 calibers, M60 machine guns and 2.75-inch rockets have the Viet Cong on the run. Just another night in the Mekong Delta region during the peak of the Vietnam War.

The Mission

IT is estimated that almost half the South Vietnamese population lives in the Mekong Delta region in the south, one of the most fertile rice producing regions in the world. With 4,000 miles of inland waterways, plus rice paddies, about the only practical way to move around the region is by watercraft.

In the mid-1960s the Mekong was being overrun by the Viet Cong, and the Vietnamese navy was ill-equipped to control the situation. In 1965, the U.S. Navy was assigned the task of controlling the waterways and restricting Viet Cong movement in the area.

Thus was born "Operation Game Warden" and Task Force 116 — the Brown Water Navy. In addition to operations in the Mekong Delta, Game Warden forces were to carry on a similar mission in the Rung Sat area, the 400 square-mile area much like the Mekong Delta region that stood between the South China Sea and Saigon. A couple of years later, the Navy was assigned another similar operation, called "Operation Clearwater" in the northern region of the country, but on a smaller scale.

The Equipment

The Navy needed special vessels to perform this new mission because nothing in its arsenal of boats and ships could traverse the shallow waters at high rates of speed. Thus was born the Patrol Boat, River, or PBR.

After looking at hulls produced by several builders of pleasure boats, the Navy settled on the Hatteras-type hull and awarded a contract to United Boatbuilders of Bellingham, Washington, to construct the PBR. Actually, United only had to fit the special superstructure to a standard fiberglass hull it was already marketing.

The specifications called for a top speed

While PBRs normally patrolled in pairs, sometimes a flotilla would be used on special missions. Here PBRs are seen attacking VC positions on Tan Dinh Island during Operation Bold Dragon III. Photo: U.S. Navy



of 25-30 knots and a very shallow draft: 18 inches when stationary and only 9 inches when cruising. Because the swamps and rice paddies with their thick vegetation played havoc with the propellers, a normal screw-type propulsion system was out of the question. Instead, a water jet propulsion system built by Jacuzzi was installed which also was already being used for commercial applications. The propulsion system consisted of twin water-jet pumps with steering done by turning the water jet nozzles through cable controls. To slow down, stop, and travel backwards, a U-shaped gate was dropped over the jets to deflect the water-stream down and forward to give thrust to the rear. While reverse speed was quite slow, in an emergency the PBR could be reversed at full speed in its own length and stopped within three lengths — that is if you didn't care if everyone and everything on board was given a good soaking. Power for the waterjet system came from a 220-horsepower diesel engine.

The 31-foot long, 10½-foot wide, 14,600-pound PBRs were highly maneuverable, a nice feature considering their lack of armor protection. They depended upon dodging a bullet rather than stopping one. About the only armor protection were ceramic shields that could stop a .30-cal. round located on the boat's conning tower and at each of the three machine gun positions. The fiberglass hull, while providing little armor protection, could be easily repaired in the field.

PBRs were armed to the teeth. Up front were mounted twin .50-cal. machine guns, and in the stern another .50 cal. was positioned to fire to the rear. Amidship there was an M60 and a Mark 18 40mm rapid-fire grenade launcher. The Mark 18 was portable and could be mounted on either side of the craft or piggybacked to the aft .50 caliber. PBRs also carried a couple of M79 grenade launchers as well as hand weapons like M16 rifles and perhaps a shotgun. Frequently, a 60mm mortar was carried and fired from a tub of sand located in the rear of the boat.

The 40mm grenade launchers turned out to be effective weapons against the VC on shore. Grenades could be lofted so that they detonated in the branches of the trees that covered the shores of the rivers and canals. As can be expected, the resulting fragmentation was devastating. These weapons were especially effective in silencing a sniper when his location could not be pinpointed for other weapons. It worked: captured VC said that they feared a grenade attack more than anything else.

PBRs appeared in rather large numbers: By 1969, there were some 250 boats operating in Vietnam. Of these, about 20 were used in the north for Operation Clearwater and the rest were found in the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat areas.

No story about naval operations in Vietnam would be complete without mentioning the PACVs, or Patrol Air Cushion Vehicles. Air cushion vehicles, sometimes referred to



Seawolf gunship flies low and slow over a flotilla of PBRs while searching out VC on the shoreline. Unless attacking, the choppers normally stayed out of range of enemy small-arms fire. Photo: U.S. Navy



Navy Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle (PACV) makes a run down the My Tho River. The Vietnamese called them *Quai Vat* — monster — and the shark's teeth painted on the bow added to the effect. Photo: U.S. Navy



Patrol Boat, River. About 250 PBRs comprised the Brown Water Navy which searched the Mekong Delta region for elusive Viet Cong. PBRs were normally crewed by four Navy enlisted personnel. Photo: U.S. Navy

as a ground effects machine, ride on a cushion of air and actually hover a few inches above the surface over which they travel. One or more propellers are used to push the ACV forward and steering is performed with airplane-like rudders. Fans provide the air pressure for the cushion of air on which the craft rides. The ACV is completely amphibious, traveling equally well over water, sand, ice, snow, swamps or rice paddies at speeds of up to 60-knots. Thus the PACV was a natural for the Vietnam environment.

PACVs first made their appearance in Vietnam in the spring of 1966 when they were assigned to Navy units such as those engaged in Operation Game Warden. Actually, there were only three Navy PACVs and they were sent to Vietnam as an experiment. PACVs started life as commercial air cushion vehicles built by British Hovercraft; Bell Aerospace was the U.S. agent for the craft and modified them for their combat role. Modifications included a more powerful gas turbine engine, a radio and radar, some armor plating, and a .50-cal. machine gun in the turret atop the ACV. Later, when more firepower was needed, another .50-cal. was added to the turret, a 7.62mm fired from the windows on each side, and the old standby, a 40mm grenade launcher, was installed.

From the beginning of Operation Game Warden, the Navy recognized that armed helicopters would also have an important role. However, at that time the Navy didn't have helicopter gunships — its shipborne helicopters were too big and expensive to be used to escort PBRs and PACVs on their daily missions. Besides, they were needed for vital search and rescue missions as well as anti-submarine missions. Therefore, the Navy had to turn to the Army, the most experienced user of helicopter gunships.

At first, Army crews and Army UH-1B Huey gunships supported the operation in the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat operations. However, by the end of 1966 the Navy was operating eight Hueys borrowed from the Army, and by the fall of 1967 the Navy gunship assets had grown to 22 UH-1Bs in its Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron Three (HAL-3), better known as the Seawolves. The Seawolves' UH-1Bs were typically equipped with seven-tube 2.75-inch rocket pods and fixed 7.62mm machine guns, called flex-guns, on either side of the fuselage. The two door gunners used either M60 or .50-cal. machine guns, the crews preferring the latter. Door guns proved to be the most effective weapon because they could be easily aimed by the gunners whereas the rockets and flex-guns required "aiming" the entire helicopter. The biggest problem with the Navy's Huey gunships was that there never was enough of them.

The Men

PBRs were manned by a crew of four, all enlisted. Each boat was captained by a petty officer first class; the rest of the crew consisted of an engineman, a gunner's mate and a seaman. However, the titles are deceiving



because all crewmen were trained to do every job aboard the PBR, from navigating to operating the electronics. And when engaged in battle, they all became gunners. Typically, the PBRs operated in two-boat patrols with a junior officer or chief petty officer — termed the patrol officer — in charge who rode in one of the boats. When a Vietnamese National Policeman went along as part of the mission, he rode in the other boat.

PBR duty was one of the most demanding and dangerous Navy billets in Vietnam. The men who wore the black beret of the river patrol forces served with the most decorated naval unit in Vietnam. They also suffered a high casualty rate with about a third of the PBR sailors being wounded during their assignment. Hours were long, patrols usually lasting about about twelve hours, and the creature comforts aboard the cramped PBRs were, at best, primitive.

But there was no shortage of volunteers for the job. About 20 percent of the PBR sailors opted to extend their tour of duty by six months. Combat pay and promotion advantage was part of the reason, but for the most part, adventure and the responsibility drew men to the job. Where else in the Navy could a young enlisted troop have a chance to exercise the leadership he did on a PBR?

Tactics

PBR duty consisted of endless hours of monotonous watching, waiting, searching and inspecting the thousands of junks and sampans that traveled the waterways of Vietnam. But now and then a few hours of intense combat broke the routine. Typically, the PBR force detected 200,000 boats a month, boarding about half of them to verify cargo manifests, check ID cards and search for unauthorized weapons or contraband. PBRs were most vulnerable to attack by the VC when they were boarding and searching vessels, so during these routine missions, two PBRs were used. One PBR provided cover while the other craft did the actual boarding. A Vietnamese policeman often went along, usually serving as an interpreter.

These "population and resource control" missions soon forced the Viet Cong into hiding and Charlie had to move about the waterways covertly. For example, a Viet Cong sampan might hide among the trees that lined the banks of the rivers and canals waiting for the right moment to make a run for it using an outboard motor to propel his sampan at speeds of up to 30 knots. The "right moment" usually occurred after a PBR patrol had passed his hidden location. Because the PBRs were noisy Charlie usually knew when the patrol boats were in the

Navy Seawolf UH-1B gunship fires in support of PBRs attacking VC positions on the Co Chien River 50 miles southwest of Saigon. Combined with the PBRs' firepower, the Seawolf's 2.75-inch rocket launchers, 7.62mm "flex guns" and door-mounted .50 cal's wrought havoc on Charlie's lines of supply. Photo: U.S. Navy





area — that is until the PBRs started drifting silently while waiting for Charlie to make his move. When the enemy sampan was spotted, engines were started and the chase was on. The Viet Cong sampans were typically protected by troops on shore equipped with automatic rifles, rockets and recoilless rifles who put up a barrage of fierce gunfire. Sometimes Charlie would set up an ambush to mask his crossings in another location. Under these situations, PBR crews had their hands full firing everything they had and often having to call for help from the Seawolf helicopters.

Seawolf Hueys were kept on 24-hour alert and could be scrambled into the air within three minutes. In less than 15 minutes they could be giving fire support to the PBRs. When in combat, one helicopter provided air cover while the other flew in low to engage the enemy. The two Hueys would alternately provide cover and fire on Charlie. But the Seawolves did more than just come to the aid of PBRs in times of trouble — they also performed their own armed patrols. From their vantage point in the sky, they were better able to see the enemy hidden in and behind treelines. Typically, the two helicopters would fly high enough to avoid damage from small arms fire, swooping down at treetop level to make a closer inspection or to fire upon VC sampans, junks, bunkers, or fleeing troops.

PACVs saw their share of action as well. Although they were used less often than the PBRs, they too had some interesting experiences. While faster than the PBRs, they were less maneuverable and made a lot more noise. PACVs were used mainly on the wider bays, rivers and swamps — any place where speed was important. One of their most notable operations was in flushing out Charlie from the Plain of Reeds in 1966.

Quai Vat was an appropriate name for the operation to push Charlie out of the Plain of Reeds — it means monster in Vietnamese. The three PACVs used during the operation were painted with shark's teeth in keeping with the theme of the mission and this, coupled with the noise and water spray thrown up from the air cushion vehicles, made the PACVs truly monsters in the eyes of the VC.

PACVs also found an effective way to deal with the low-slung sampans: they drove right over them. Since PACVs were not limited by the low banks and dikes, they'd climb right over them to chase Charlie, something the PBRs couldn't do.

PACVs proved especially effective when the wet season came to an end and the water level fell on the Plain of Reeds. This limited the operation of regular watercraft but didn't hinder the PACVs. During Operation

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Army SK-5 Assault Air Cushion Vehicles (AACV). Like their Navy PACV counterparts, these craft could operate over land and water. Photo: U.S. Navy



DEZINFOR

Comrade Cranston Assists Soviets in Tito's Rise to Power

by Milton R. Copulos

DISINFORMATION, distortions and outright lies fed to the free press through the Soviet *dezinformatsia* network are a constant hurdle for democratic forces everywhere. Disinformation has been successfully used countless times to undermine support for democratic revolutionary movements, and to convince the West to support communist insurgencies.

Here are but a few basic examples: Castro isn't really a communist, the Viet Cong were simple nationalists, Chairman Mao was a misunderstood agrarian reformer and the Sandinistas are an altruistic cement to put together a pluralistic social democracy in Nicaragua.

One disinformation campaign stands above all others in terms of duration and effectiveness. Yet it is barely known outside academic circles. It is a campaign which served in many ways as the prototype for those which followed.

The most important historical aspect of this campaign — one which still has a possible bearing on the conduct of U.S. foreign policy — is that it was aided and abetted at every step by the active participation, whether witting or unwitting, of a wide range of prominent figures here and abroad. These people include, among others, Randolph Churchill, a son of England's wartime prime minister; Guy Burgess, a high-ranking member of British intelligence later identified as a Soviet spy; and U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston, a California Democrat who sits on the Foreign Relations Committee and serves as the Senate minority whip.

The target of this monumental disinformation campaign was Yugoslav nationalist leader Draza Mihailovic and his Chetniks. It resulted in the loss of the Balkans to communism.

The Inception

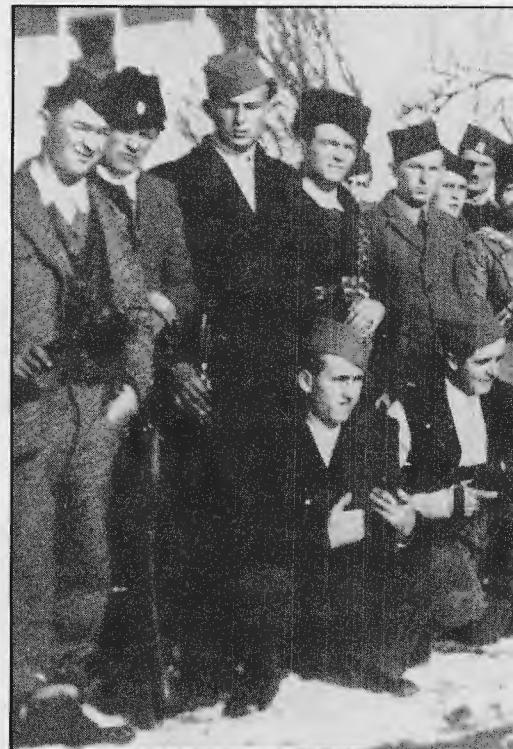
War news from Europe grew increasingly grim during the summer of 1941. After Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939 there had been a brief lull. The Wehrmacht then stunned the world with a blitzkrieg that rolled up much of Europe in just a few

weeks. Great Britain was already in a desperate struggle for survival after months of severe bombing. Hitler was so confident that he opened a second front against Russia. The free world was hungry for hope.

After a pessimistic summer, hope finally came in August 1941. Reports filtered out of eastern Europe about a band of heroic guerrillas under the command of an obscure Yugoslav colonel named Draza Mihailovic who were successfully resisting the Nazis. Mihailovic had led a small band of Yugoslav regulars to a mountain hideout called Ravna Gora. They were joined by peasant farmers and laborers who rallied to the cry of *Bolje grob nego rob* — "Better a grave than a slave!"

Mihailovic's resistance fighters called themselves "Chetniks," taking their name from the guerrilla fighters who helped Serbia win its independence from the Turks. News of the Chetniks was the hope the free world had been desperate for, proof that the Nazis were not invincible. Mihailovic and his men captured the public's imagination and were quickly elevated to heroic status by the Allies, whose sagging morale soared.

Almost every periodical and newspaper in North America and Britain carried a feature on Mihailovic and the Chetniks in the



Some of Mihailovic's Chetnik resistance fighters early in the war. Photo: John E. Scroggs Collection

next several months. The cover of *Time* magazine, dated 25 May 1942, showed the resistance leader over a caption that read "Mihailovich: Yugoslavia's Unconquered." The magazine reported that the Chetniks had "liberated" 20,000 square miles of Yugoslavia. Hitler had "as many as seven Nazi divisions" chasing Mihailovic and his men through what the magazine called an "island of democracy."

True, most people no longer recognize Mihailovic's name. But in mid-1942, he became the fourth most familiar figure in the Allied leadership after Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. Recognizing Mihailovic's pivotal role, Yugoslavia's exiled King Peter named Mihailovic his Minister of War.

It is at this juncture that a communist disinformation campaign was launched against Mihailovic, who showed definite leanings toward the West and a pluralistic regime. As a result of this smear effort, his popularity waned rapidly.

The communist campaign to discredit the Chetniks in favor of someone under Kremlin influence surfaced on 22 July 1942,

WRITER, VETERAN

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MATSIA



when a clandestine radio station calling itself Radio Free Yugoslavia broadcast a startling denouncement of Mihailovic. It claimed that he was not a hero, but a Nazi collaborator. The "real heroes," the mysterious radio station claimed, belonged to another band of guerrillas led by a man named Josip Broz Tito.

While at first met with skepticism, the broadcast was soon augmented by other reports casting doubts about Mihailovic. Many of these reports came from a source no less authoritative than the Cairo headquarters of Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE).

While more subtle than Radio Free Yugoslavia's propaganda, the SOE reports from Cairo were far more damaging. They claimed that Mihailovic's forces were spending more time fighting Tito's group—called Partisans—in what amounted to a civil war. The SOE reports also alleged that the Chetniks spent little time in battle against the Germans, that material sent to them was essentially wasted. This last tidbit was particularly damning in the eyes of the Allies who were then in a desperate struggle to meet the demands of fighting Hitler's war machine.

The British had Allied operational control over the Balkans. A military mission



Alan Cranston, now a member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, testifying to a House of Representatives special investigative committee in 1952. Cranston denied an alleged role in covering up the blame of Soviet troops in the Katyn Forest Massacre. Cranston already had been forced to resign his job with the Office of War Information because of his alleged misinformation efforts on behalf of the Russians. Photo: AP/Wide World

staffed by two close associates of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Brigadier Fitzroy McClean and Captain William Deakin, was sent to Tito's headquarters to resolve questions about the actual situation in Yugoslavia. Soon McLean and Deakin

were joined by Churchill's son, Randolph, who as an honored guest of Tito was liberally entertained with wine, women and song.

Not surprisingly, Randolph Churchill gave his father glowing reports of Tito's Partisan activity. Coupled with Cairo's unfavorable reports about the Chetniks, this eventually led the Allies to abandon Mihailovic in favor of Tito.

Of course neither Churchill nor any of the other Allied leaders realized at the time that they were being victimized by disinformation. It is one of the earliest such campaigns ever mounted by the Soviet Union. So great was its success that the disinformation persists today. Here's how it worked.

Dezinformatsia Agents

James Klugman had one of the most effective careers of any Soviet agent in history. It began when Klugman was a young student at Cambridge and became part of Kim Philby's circle of friends. The "Cambridge Group," as the group was called, included several future Soviet spies in virtually every key division of the British intelligence and diplomatic corps: Philby at MI6, Klugman, Donald Maclean in the Foreign Office, Anthony Blunt at MI5 and Guy Burgess at the Office of Political Warfare.

Klugman was considered the most brilliant intellectual of the group. He was also their most effective recruiter, according to John Cairncross, a Soviet undercover agent who held a variety of posts in British intelligence and diplomatic services during and after World War II. Cairncross later admitted he had been recruited as a Soviet agent by Klugman.

After the war Klugman became chief theoretician of the British Communist Party. He was eulogized in the *London Times* as committed "to the international working class movement and the Communist Party, which he joined in 1933 and remained in until his death" in 1977. The *Times* also noted that Klugman "played an important part in resistance and liberation movements."

Klugman joined SOE as deputy chief of the Yugoslav section at Cairo, the principal staging area for materiel and covert operations, and the main clearing house for all intelligence reports relayed back to Allied headquarters. Klugman gained another advantage with the appointment of Basil Davidson as his immediate superior. Admittedly sympathetic with Klugman's "progressive" philosophy, Davidson accepted Klugman's recommendations without question, giving the Soviet agent an essentially free reign.

For the purposes of undermining the Chetniks, no one was in a better position to help the Soviets than Klugman. He was responsible for coordinating intelligence reports and forwarding them to Allied headquarters in London. So he controlled the flow of information on which vital decisions were based. And Klugman was responsible for the Chetniks' air resupply shipments. Consequently, airdrops to the Chetniks

were sporadic and what did get through was of little value.

Some examples indicate a perverse sense of humor on Klugman's part. One shipment consisted of Italian currency used by occupation troops in Ethiopia. Another shipment contained worn out office equipment and a large supply of carbon paper. Still another provided the Chetniks with chewing gum, which they initially mistook for soap. Arms delivered often were antiques and rarely were accompanied by ammunition.

The lack of arms and ammo lent further credence to allegations that the Chetniks weren't fighting. The shipments also hurt morale by leaving them with an impression that the Allies held them in contempt. As damaging as the resupply sabotage was, it was minor compared to Klugman's disinformation campaign.

Klugman was in an ideal position to selectively edit information going to Allied headquarters. Intelligence reports from the field usually were condensed in Cairo before being forwarded to London. So Klugman could make changes before senior intelligence officials saw the data.

The communists had another advantage. Allied liaison officers stationed with Tito's Partisans had little freedom of movement. Many characterized their situation as similar to house arrest. So they had to rely on Tito's word concerning actions against Nazi forces. By contrast, the liaison officers initially stationed with the Chetniks were allowed complete freedom of movement. They could see the good and the bad.

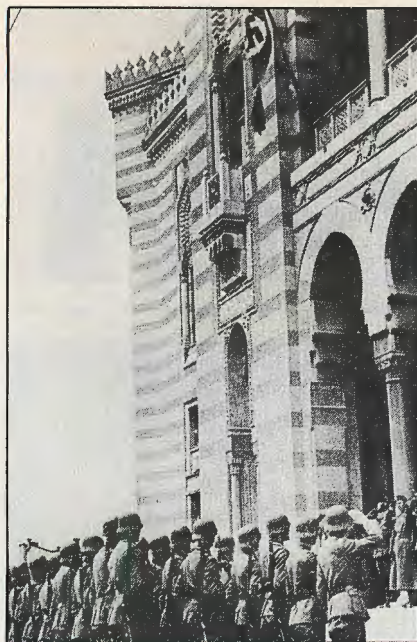
Most liaison officers posted with the Chetniks were surprised to learn on their return to Cairo that their intelligence reports were not in the files. Many also complained that several successful Chetnik operations — actions which they had personally witnessed — were attributed in the files and later in BBC broadcasts to Tito's communist Partisans.

Apparently Klugman's old friend, Guy Burgess, then in a position to leak information to the BBC, was attributing the successes of Mihailovic to Tito.

Yet with all of the forces within British intelligence circles arrayed against Mihailovic, his decline and eventual abandonment might not have taken place so quickly had it not been for a disinformation campaign against the Chetniks underway in the U.S.

U.S. Disinformation

The most important figure in the U.S. disinformation effort against Mihailovic was a Soviet agent named Louis Adamic. As a confidant of the ever-popular First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and an established member of intellectual and journalistic circles in Washington, Adamic enjoyed a reputation as a trusted insider during the war. With his White House access and his many media friends, Adamic was in a fine position to influence both public opinion and official policy. After admitting Communist Party membership of over a decade, as well as connections to the Soviet *dez-*



Nazi troops occupy Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, early in World War II. This is the same city in which Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated, resulting in World War I. Photo: AP/Wide World



General Mihailovic in his dress uniform as war minister for the Yugoslavian government in exile. Photo: AP/Wide World

formatsia network, Adamic died at his home under uncertain circumstances soon after the war. He was found on a burned couch shot in the head with a gun lying nearby.

The key to Adamic's subtle transformation of American opinion away from Mihailovic and in favor of Tito, though, was his close relationship with Alan Cranston, later to be a California Democrat in the United States Senate and a member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

A look at Cranston's early history is interesting in light of his wartime activities. His father, William Cranston, was a political leftist who one summer during Alan's high school years took his son to visit the

Soviet Union, barely a decade after the communist revolution. Alan's early political and journalistic inclinations were shaped by his father's friend, Fremont Older, a radical newspaper editor in San Francisco. Later, Alan Cranston and a fellow student at Stanford University were described in the 19 July 1935 *San Francisco Examiner* as "boy revolutionaries" for their role in a communist insurrection aimed at overthrowing dictator Garrido Canbal in Tabasco, Mexico. The two were attending summer school at the University of Mexico at the time.

After graduating, Cranston claims to have covered England, Germany, Italy and Ethiopia for the International News Service. An INS spokesman said Cranston was an unpaid apprentice who worked briefly in the London office. Yet the Congressional Directory for the 99th Congress lists INS employment in Cranston's biographical sketch. It is uncertain who paid for Cranston's travels to Europe and Africa. The senator did not return any of the three calls to his office to comment on this story.

Cranston returned to Washington, where he met and became friends with Louis Adamic in 1939. Cranston joined a leftist group called the Common Council on American Unity. Adamic edited its newsletter, *Common Ground*, and Cranston was on the editorial staff. According to Gary Allen, a Stanford graduate and author of several books, including the best-seller *Richard Nixon: The Man Behind the Mask*, Cranston "became the protégé of ... Louis Adamic."

According to Allen, Adamic later helped Cranston get a job as head of the Foreign Languages Division of the Office of War Information. The Office of War Information was America's propaganda organization during World War II, acting as censor on all news reports about the war filed for publication or broadcast in the United States. It also controlled which areas journalists could and could not visit. Thus it could spike a story by merely denying access to the reporter.

On the recommendation of Adamic, Cranston soon hired as his top OWI assistant a man named David Karr, who had worked as an editor for two communist publications, *The Daily Worker* and *Party Organizer*. Karr, now an investment banker in Paris, donated \$2,500 to Cranston's campaign in 1974, according to the *Sacramento Bee*.

Another person Cranston hired for the division was Carolo Emanuel Prato, later described in a House of Representatives investigative report as a "pay-off man" of the the Soviet secret police. Prato had already been expelled from Switzerland as a Soviet agent when he went to work for Cranston, who now denies ever knowing Prato.

Although the hearings never received much publicity, OWI's activities during Cranston's tenure resulted in at least three separate congressional investigations. The heavy-handedness with which Cranston and

his subordinates went about their work is evident in the following testimony heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 29 September 1949.

Paul Nadany, editor of *Amerikai Magyar-sag*, testified that "the policy of my paper was advocating all military aid to Russia against the Axis; but keeping the communists three feet away, reminding them time and again that they must first prove their sincerity after the shooting phase of the war was over. Naturally, they resented this attitude and with their influence growing daily in Washington they felt free to attack my paper day after day. Alan Cranston ... and Dave Karr ... came to my office and practically held a club over my head to tone down all the differences with the communists. My publisher and I resented this attitude and told him, 'No.' "

But Alan Cranston's Soviet sympathies caught the attention of Congress earlier than that. In December 1943, the House Appropriations Committee specifically cited Cranston's office as helping "to further the interests of Soviet foreign diplomacy, often in contradiction to the declared policy of the United States." A month before, the House Select Committee to Investigate the Federal Communications Commission named Cranston as a conspirator in a disinformation effort to put a "pro-communist slant to foreign language broadcasts" from the United States. An FBI report disclosed in those hearings said Cranston "moves in Communist circles."

One journalist, Ray Brock, wrote about the censorship of news from Yugoslavia in 1944, stating that "the Cairo and London censors suppress all or very nearly all dispatches favorable to Mihailovic, encourage the faking of dispatches favorable to the communist Partisans and their leader Josip Broz Tito, and issue directives for news stories seeking to support the 'liberalization' of Tito's communist regime in western Yugoslavia."

Alan Cranston later was called on the congressional carpet in connection with his office's falsifying facts about the Katyn Massacre in Poland. History has confirmed that when Soviet troops liberated the area, they rounded up and shot over 13,000 Polish officers, intellectuals and scientists, dumping the bodies in a mass grave. The massacre was staged to appear as if the Germans committed the atrocity as they withdrew. Cranston's staff collaborated with Soviet propagandists in circulating phony "reports" placing blame on the Germans, thus protecting the Soviet image.

Cranston consulted frequently with Adamic about matters concerning Yugoslavia, according to Allen. By the end of 1943, the OWI was billing Adamic as its chief adviser to its Yugoslav Division and the nation's "foremost expert on Yugoslavia." He was appointed to lecture on Yugoslav affairs to personnel about to embark for the Balkans. Adamic later boasted that he played a key role in swinging U.S. support to Tito. That boast apparently cost him his life, whether



Marshal Tito, right, and his staff in the Balkans. A Soviet disinformation effort secured Allied support from Tito's communist guerrillas. Photo: AP/Wide World



Mihailovic in the field. The original photo was smuggled through German lines out of Yugoslavia. Photo: AP/Wide World.



Guy Burgess, the young Cambridge intellectual-turned-Soviet-spy, played a key role in delivering the Balkans over to communism during World War II. Photo: AP/Wide World

by his own hand or someone else's will probably never be known.

As for Cranston, following the many congressional hearings about his disinformation efforts on behalf of the Soviets he was forced to resign his OWI job.

Boat Lift Boondoggle

In addition to communist efforts in Washington and Cairo to undermine support for the Chetniks, many well-intentioned OSS officers supported the Partisans because their intelligence reports led them to believe this was militarily wise. A good example is the Adriatic boat lift, a heroic re-supply effort mounted by a Danish expatriate named Hans Tofte.

Tofte escaped from Nazi-occupied Denmark to New York, where he linked up with British intel and was assigned to the Far East. When the U.S. entered WWII, Tofte joined the OSS and ended up in Cairo. Here he became an ardent supporter of Tito's Partisans. He offered to establish a sea-lift of supplies across the Adriatic to the coast of the Yugoslav province of Dalmatia.

Beginning in October 1943, Tofte's hodge-podge navy of 44 tram steamers and sailboats began their dangerous runs of arms, ammunition, food and other supplies to the Partisans. An aircraft could cover in hours what it took Tofte's ships days to navigate. But one boatload was equal to what an entire air squadron could carry in a month. A staff of over 1,000 Partisans eventually was assembled to assist Tofte's efforts.

Tofte's sea-lift lost only four ships during over 70 crossings. He received several decorations for his efforts and Tofte firmly believes his efforts helped shorten the war. But captured German documents and newly released information indicate this was not the case.

Tito tried as early as November 1942 to work out a truce with the Nazis. Hitler

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T&E

SURVIVAL AIDS' ALLWEATHER BAG

by William B. Guthrie

ing problems for the specialist.

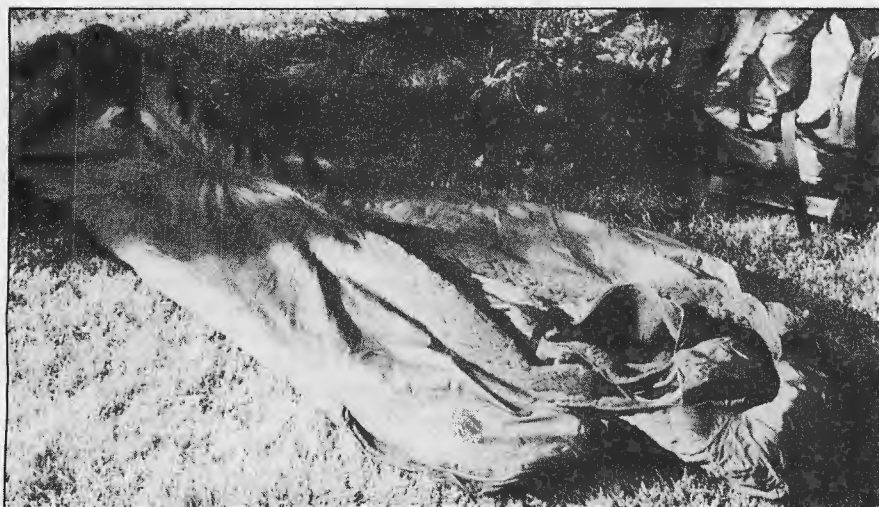
Survival Aids' Allweather bag is insulated with an all-synthetic fiber pile — probably polypropylene — and each of the nesting bags is covered with a tightly-woven thin nylon cover. The full-front and armhole zippers are a relatively fine nylon coil type. Hook-and-pile fasteners at the forehead and neck of the outer bag's face opening tie the two bags together when both are used. Manufacturer's specifications state that the outer bag weighs 3 pounds and the inner bag weighs 2½ pounds, but the given weight must be for a small or medium bag, since the large size test sample weighed nearly 1 pound more than the catalog weight.

The Allweather will obviously perform certain specialized tasks. A sniper, hunter, observer, birdwatcher or driver of an unheated or open vehicle could sit or lie inside the bag with arms protruding from the side zippers and legs from the bottom of the two-way front zipper. Combined with ordinary outdoor clothing, the Allweather should provide protection from the cold even under arctic and alpine conditions. The bags are cut quite close to the body, so movement would not be restricted for operating machinery or a weapon. Fiber pile is relatively incompressible, so insulation under the user is good, even without a foam pad. All in all, the Allweather bag is hard to beat for warmth and protection from all but the worst weather if the user has some sedentary task to perform.

Unfortunately, it's not much of a sleeping bag. The large size proved roomy only for men under 6-feet tall and under 160-pounds weight. Fit was so close that no insulating clothing except for thin long underwear could be worn inside the bag. Since the bag is only rated to 10 degrees Fahrenheit, this is a great disadvantage for projected winter use.

Unless vehicles are available to carry gear, fiber pile is a relatively poor insulation for sleeping bags. It's heavy for its given warmth rating, doesn't compress well for packing, and its weight and incompressibility incline manufacturers to cut pile bags small to minimize these problems. A single fiber pile bag can be a great advantage in mild, wet weather, since pile is warmer when damp than nearly anything else. It's too bad that the Allweather is apparently designed for severe conditions, because that's not the best environment for a pile bag. No matter how comfortable this bag may be for running a D9 Cat during a blizzard, it would be a pretty miserable thing to sleep in during the same storm.

The design can be fixed, though. Increased in size to allow normal winter clothing to be worn under it, and reduced to a single bag, the Allweather could be turned from a failed 6-pound winter bag into a useful 4-pound bivouac bag that still performs its protective purpose for observers or equipment operators. The Allweather is a good idea, but its design is ambitious beyond the capabilities of its materials. ❧



SURVIVAL AIDS' ALLWEATHER DOUBLE MUMMY SPECIFICATIONS

Insulation	Polypropylene fiber pile
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Zippers	Full-length front and armhole in unbaffled, self-repairing nylon coil
Construction	Two bags, inner and outer, each with full front and armhole zippers, each covered in water- and wind-resistant nylon.
Accessories	Nylon stuff sack
Weight	Outer bag, 3 pounds; inner bag, 2.5 pounds
Comfort rating	10 degrees Fahrenheit
Color	Olive drab
Cost	\$150
Manufacturer	Survival Aids Ltd., Cumbria, England
U.S. distributor	SOF Exchange, P.O. Box 687, Boulder, CO 80306

SLLEEPING bags. They provide a portable and durable micro-environment that enables the user to sleep. Anything else is superfluous. But some accessories or fea-

tures may prove desirable as long as they do not compromise the bag's essential functionality. In this context, Survival Aids' two-layer fiber-pile mummy poses interest-

BINOCULARS. Most people use them to watch the Chicago Bears or White-Winged Crossbills. Hunters scan for everything from elk to javelina with them. Law enforcement personnel commonly use them for surveillance. Soldiers deploy them to stalk a quarry that in turn stalks them. For sport and recreation, price is often the only consideration. But, for military and police, there should be no compromise in quality.

During the past 38 years Swarovski has established itself as a leader in binocular technology. Founded in 1948, Swarovski Optik KG built a plant on the site of a former German army supply depot in Absam, Austria, a northern section of the old Tyrolean mining city of Hall.

Swarovski manufactures all of its own optical components and maintains the highest quality standards in the industry. In 1979 they introduced their Habicht (Hawk) SL series of binoculars which are designed and built from the "inside-out." (See "Tyrolean Binoculars," SOF, May '85.) While offering more than adequate power and amazing brilliance, both the SL 8X56 and SL 10X50 binocs are massive and tip the scales at 2.7 and 2.3 pounds, respectively.

Since I usually stuff binoculars into my pack, it would lessen the burden if lighter and more compact glasses of milspec quality were available. Provided you don't normally require the twilight performance of a 50mm objective lens, Swarovski's new Compact SL binoculars, weighing only 17.5 ounces, are just the ticket.

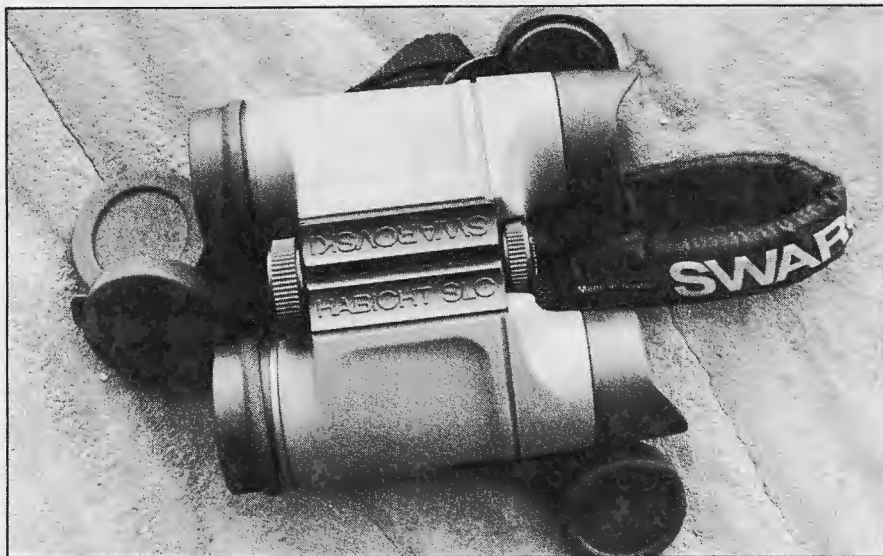
There are two models, a 7X30 and an 8X30 Wide-angle, and they incorporate all of the previous features of the SL series plus a few more. "Inside-out" construction means that the core section, or prism block, is fabricated first by laser alignment and sealing of the mated prisms. At the same time, the ocular (eye piece) and objective tubes are mounted and sealed to the prism block. The prisms of each core section are cemented together to eliminate internal reflections and enhance image brightness and clarity. After alignment of the hinge's central axis with the optical path of the prism block, the entire core section is placed into an injection mold for application of the polyurethane body material.

This polyurethane housing is durable, shock-resistant, non-reflective, noiseless, comfortable and corrosion resistant. The non-slip surface can be washed with soap and water. Two thumb grooves, shallower than those of the 8X56 and 10X50 binocs, are molded into the underside of the SL Compacts to improve the grip for protracted scanning. Housing colors are either matte gray or matte green.

Tested at a depth of 15 feet of water for one hour, the SL series binoculars are waterproof and yet have central focusing. A butyl rubber bellows surrounds the ocular, sealing it onto the prism block with o-rings, and the objective lens is sealed with silicone. The focusing adjustment has no exposed "bridge," or crossbar. Compensation

COMPACT BINOCES FROM SWAROVSKI

by Peter G. Kokalis



Swarovski's new SL Compacts are just the ticket for those who want performance magnification in a compact body.



Even with a length of 5 inches and a weight of 17.5 ounces, the SL Compacts deliver professional performance.

tion for unequal eye vision (anisometropia) by means of diopter adjustment has been moved from its usual position on the right ocular to the ocular end of the hinge's central axis. The central focusing knob remains at the objective end of the hinges' central axis on both SL Compacts.

A three-layer, wideband coating, called "Swarotop," has been applied to the lens surfaces to yield a light transmission of 99.8 percent — the highest performance in the

industry. The twilight factor (according to DIN 58388) is 14.5 for the 7X30 SL Compacts and 15.5 for the 8X30 Wide-angle glasses. This compares to 22.4 for the SL 10X50 binoculars.

At \$420, the 8X30 Wide-angles are only \$20 more than the 7X30 SL Compacts. They will surely be the most popular, offering slightly greater magnification, a wider field of view — 137 meters (449 feet) at 1,000 meters — and a somewhat superior twilight factor. With an overall length of 5 inches, some will question whether either of these binoculars qualify as true compacts. There are Japanese binoculars no larger than a package of cigarettes, but all that I have tried are worth little more than a carton of Camels. Swarovski's SL Compacts are as big as they have to be and as small as they can be to deliver professional performance.

Both SL Compacts are equipped with contoured eye cups that can be rolled down for eyeglass wearers, contoured ocular caps, objective caps, a comfortable padded neck strap and a soft case with belt loops and velcro closure. For further information about these superb binoculars contact Swarovski America Ltd., Dept. SOF, One Kennedy Drive, Cranston, RI 02920. ☒

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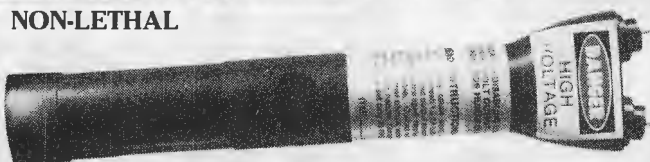
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AMONG THE MISSING

Continued from page 37

Division troops near Svay Rieng, and he was killed in the ensuing firefight. His diary was examined by military intelligence officers, who had heard rumors of the mysterious "Dutchman," but it contained nothing conclusive about the missing newsmen. The only entry pertaining to Stone and Flynn was a terse notation saying the village where they were supposed to meet had been destroyed by American warplanes.

The notorious "Seven Mountains Region" (see "Assault on Superstition Mountain," October '86 SOF) which straddles the Vietnam/Cambodia border in the western Mekong Delta, was frequently mentioned as a holding site for foreign prisoners of the VC/NVA. A French woman was allegedly being held there in 1970-71 and "foreign journalists" are mentioned in 1973-74 reports from the area. Holding areas were said to include the massive cave complex on Nui Coto. South Vietnamese authorities said the prisoners were later moved across the border to Cambodia.

The Committee to Free Journalists Held in Southeast Asia undertook a number of missions to Cambodia during the late war years. Field investigators for the committee turned up evidence that as many as 10 of the missing journalists survived their capture, and as late as 1976-77 there were reports they were being held in camps along the border. A North Vietnamese officer captured in Cambodia told interrogators he believed "many" foreign journalists listed as MIA were alive and living in Hanoi. He said he had seen six journalists under guard in a jeep in northeast Cambodia, and was told they were being taken to Hanoi where other captured journalists were being held.

Other foreign nationals missing in Southeast Asia include Nationalist Chinese from Taiwan, Thai troops who fought in Laos and Cambodia under CIA tutelage, and Filipinos working under contract to various U.S. government agencies.

Chartered Nationalist Chinese transport planes were heavily involved in covert warfare in both Cambodia and Vietnam. The aircrews were normally Chinese military personnel serving on detached duty while the actual aircraft involved were either diverted from the assets of China Airlines, the Nationalist flag-carrier, or came from the stocks of Air Asia, a CIA subsidiary based in Taiwan. In one incident that occurred during the first week of June 1972, a chartered Nationalist transport carrying U.S. and Vietnamese troops on a high-level clandestine mission crashed in the Central Highlands. Of the 31 personnel aboard, six were Chinese crewmen. Reports from the area later told of Chinese prisoners being marched away by their NVA captors. Across the border in Cambodia, China Airlines cargo planes regularly flew under CIA auspices. In July 1974 a twin-engine C-123 was shot down while returning from Phnom

Penh. The crewmen, all of whom were subsequently listed as MIA, included four Chinese and a Filipino.

Some 10,000-15,000 Thai irregulars, equipped and paid for by the U.S. government, fought in Laos during the late '60s and early '70s. A smaller number, known as the "Yellow Tiger Brigade," was involved in fighting the Khmer Rouge inside Cambodia from 1972-74. Aside from those killed in the normal course of combat operations, some of the Thais were taken prisoner — and promptly vanished. Their ultimate fate is unknown although at least one Thai government agency lists them as MIAs and continues to investigate sightings and reports.

Numerous reports crop up telling of Thai troops in communist captivity. One U.S. intelligence document dated 28 April 1967 tells of two Thais being held in a cave one kilometer southeast of Muong Nga, Laos. *The Bangkok Post* ran an article on 21 March 1971 recounting the experiences of a former Thai POW who had been held in Laos and who claimed to have seen American POWs during his captivity.

When U.S. POWs were released by the VC/NVA in 1973, two Thai prisoners were among them — Chem Bambang Uom and Praphan Xirion. U.S. officials were tight-lipped about details surrounding their capture and subsequent imprisonment, saying only that "the U.S. government is providing assistance to expedite their return to

Thailand." Thai government sources refuse to comment.

Hundreds of Filipinos served the U.S. war effort in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos; some in a covert capacity. A secret intelligence report from early 1967 mentions a Filipino being held in a cave at coordinates VII 190 555 in Laos. Another report dated April 1969 tells of a Filipino POW being held by the Pathet Lao in the Ban Nagnom area of Savannakhet Province. The report indicated the individual was captured in December 1969 and said the Pathet Lao intended to turn him over to the NVA. Three Filipino prisoners in Phu Yen Province, Vietnam, were the subject of a January 1972 intelligence report. They were seen traveling with an escort of four NVA armed with AK-47s, and later observed again resting beside a small stream. All three were attired in civilian clothes and appeared to be in good health. One of the men was believed to be an engineer. While precise data is hard to run down, current information indicates there are over two dozen Filipinos listed as MIAs.

Koreans, both military and civilians, are frequently mentioned in MIA reports. Combined Military Interrogation Center document # US 1531-68 reported two South Korean marines held captive in Phu Yen Province. Both were said to be from the Blue Dragon Brigade and were interrogated by an "old Chinese man." Another report, # US 1563-68, tells of five Korean males

being held along with 24 Caucasian POWs in Quang Tin Province. Korean civilians figure in a number of reports. One National Interrogation Center Report # 2457-68 dated 1 February 1968 and prepared by a field exploitation team working out of Chau Doc Province tells of two Koreans, one of them a doctor. They were reportedly captured in My Tho during Tet of 1968 and, according to the report, were being sent to Cambodia to be held as POWs.

An individual identified only as a "British colonel" cropped up in numerous U.S. intelligence reports and was also mentioned in captured enemy documents. The "colonel" and two female companions had allegedly been captured while on a boat on the Van Co Dong River near Saigon one afternoon in late 1966. After being imprisoned for a year, he was judged to be "uncooperative" and sentenced to death by the B-17 Security Section of COSVN (Central Office of South Vietnam — the North Vietnamese high command in the south). He was subsequently reported to have been executed and his body buried in Phuoc An Village, Tay Ninh Province. The repeated references to the colonel's British nationality points toward this being William Henry Wallis, a British civilian who worked as a security agent for the giant RMK-BRJ construction firm.

Australians and New Zealanders were also among the missing. A MACV intelligence report from August 1969 tells of the



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sighting of six Aussie/New Zealander military personnel in Laos. The source of the report was a communist rallier who also provided information on the physical condition and daily diet of the prisoners. According to the source, the six men were held in a large cave complex being used as a temporary collection point for POWs. An Australian pilot who vanished after being shot down and parachuting into North Vietnam crops up in DOD Intelligence Information Report #1516-1887-69 dated December 1969. Source of the information was a captured NVA soldier.

A national Military Command Center message of 15 September 1971 tells of a group of 42 "foreign prisoners" being held in the Phnum Phlom Cheh mountains in Kampot Province, Cambodia. Among the group were two described, respectively, as an Australian and a Frenchman. An unidentified Caucasian female, alternately described as American or Australian, was reliably reported to be held in a village near Sam Neua in 1971. She was said to have been aboard an aircraft which had been shot down. One source described her as young, and said she wore a cloth wrapped around her head like a turban.

Probably the best known MIA case involving an Australian is that of Neil Sharman, a journalist who vanished in the Lao-tian panhandle in 1974 while traveling with an American, Charles Dean. The Sharman/Dean case is unusual in that throughout the

history of allied POW experiences in Southeast Asia, there has never been such a large volume of information and reports in such a short period of time.

Sharman and Dean departed Vientiane in early September 1974 for a boat trip to Thakhet. Subsequent reports indicate they were captured enroute when Pathet Lao forces stopped their boat at the Ban Pak Hin Boun checkpoint. Both men were then brought upriver to Ban Thong Lam where they were observed by numerous individuals, then taken to Ban Phontan where they arrived in mid-September.

Altogether, 19 different sources provided information on the movements of Sharman and Dean. At one location they managed to pass a photo of themselves to a Lao civilian, who in turn presented it to U.S./Lao investigators where its authenticity was confirmed.

Sharman and Dean continued to be kept together and over the next two months were moved at least four times, all the while being interrogated by Pathet Lao officers. On 14 December 1974 both men were spotted in a Toyota truck that stopped at Ban Naliang, then proceeded toward Route 81. Another sighting occurred on 25 January 1975 when the two men were observed along a footpath back near Ban Phontan, accompanied by guards. They were seen again at Ban Phontan at approximately 0900 hours on 23 February, sitting on the porch of a small hut. On 30 May 1975 a coded intelli-

gence source told officials in Vientiane that Sharman and Dean had been moved to Pathet Lao headquarters at Sam Neua. There the trail ended.

Despite the vast number of sighting reports on the two men, the Pathet Lao continually denied any knowledge of either Sharman or Dean. And, while it is unlikely the Pathet Lao will ever come forward with additional information to resolve their cases, there is, as one U.S. intelligence document relates, "... no evidence to substantiate the deaths of either Dean or Sharman."

At least two Australians, as well as a number of Americans, disappeared aboard boats in the Gulf of Siam during the period 1975-79. Most believed they were victims of bad weather or an accident at sea, and assumed they had drowned. Only after the capture of Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese in January 1979 did the truth become known. These men — and perhaps even women — had been seized on the high seas by Khmer Rouge gunboats, forced into port, and then taken to the notorious Toul Sleng prison in the deserted capital. They were interrogated, tortured almost daily, and finally killed as Vietnamese forces approached Phnom Penh. Vietnamese troops found photos of the Westerners in captivity, many bearing the marks of torture, as well as forced confessions saying they were CIA agents. In the ravaged prison archives the Vietnamese found evidence

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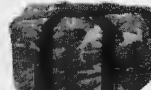
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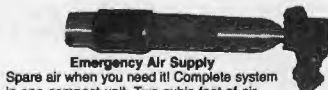


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that two Australians and four Americans were among the victims. The total is probably much higher and could involve individuals of other nations.

Officially there are only six Australians listed as MIA in Indochina, but off the record, officials concede there are more. As late as May 1984 an Australian mission was in Vietnam looking for the missing men.

The French, who spent a century colonizing Vietnam, also have a number of MIAs from the American war years. At least four French scholars are missing as a result of the war in Cambodia. Most of them disappeared in the first hectic days of the fighting during the spring of 1970.

"When one speaks of MIAs, the average person tends to think in terms of Americans," lamented one MIA activist recently. "Due to the sheer number of Americans involved, I guess that's understandable. But," he continued, "it's time it was recognized that hundreds of other nationals are also on the MIA lists. The MIA issue is really an international issue, and Hanoi has a lot to account for." ✕

MEKONG RIVER RATS

Continued from page 71

Quai Vat, PACVs were credited with 23 VC kills, 11 prisoners taken, over 70 sampans destroyed, many VC camps and fortifica-

tions put out of commission and a variety of enemy weapons and ammunition captured.

There was a trade-off for this efficiency, though: PACVs were much more expensive to purchase and operate than the smaller PBRs. A PACV cost slightly less than a million dollars versus approximately \$90,000 for a new PBR.

While the main purpose of Operations Game Warden and Clearwater was to control the Viet Cong, PBRs were also used for psywar purposes. When PBRs first appeared, the VC tried to scare the local population by telling them that PBR crews were barbarians who would rob them, rape their women and even butcher their children. However, PBR crews were often able to offset VC propaganda through civic action work such as repairing buildings damaged by the VC or serving as water ambulances. Sometimes things as simple as handing out soap, school supplies or fishing gear did the trick. Each of the PBRs was designated a *Chieu Hoi* where Viet Cong could turn themselves in to obtain amnesty. Many VC did defect to the PBR *Chieu Hoi* as word spread that the crews would treat them well.

The Navy's role with its small boats in Vietnam seemed out of character with the common notion of the Navy's mission. Most people associate destroyers, aircraft carriers, submarines and naval engagements on the high seas with the Navy — not endless patrols down forgotten rivers infested with mosquitos and a deadly enemy. The men who fought in the Brown Water

Navy never sank an enemy battleship, but their actions on Vietnam's waterways earned them a well-deserved place in Navy history. ✕

CASPIAN ARMS .45

Continued from page 29

safety should be replaced with one of Armand Swenson's long combat safeties.

One nice addition is an adjustable over-travel stop on the trigger. I could do without the gritty 7-pound trigger pull-weight, however. As a matter of fact, I did. Pistolsmith Burke C. Hill reduced it to a clean, crisp 3.75 pounds prior to our firing tests. This is more in line with what one should expect from a \$580 handgun supposedly ready to go right out of the box.

Before we move to the slide group, let me say that there's absolutely nothing wrong with the attractive, checkered wood grip panels which appear to be finished with an epoxy resin varnish. Unfortunately, there were some more problems up in the slide.

An integral five-groove solid rib has been cast into the slide. It neither adds to nor detracts from performance. The enlarged ejection port will appeal to reloaders while the deep cocking serrations make pulling back the slide easier.

But the plum-colored finish on the slide and slide stop is really bush league. The

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residue of bluing salts and patina of rust on the slide's interior surfaces were also disappointing. Apparently these components were dumped into a bluing tank for an inadequate interval of time, with the solution at too low a temperature, and then improperly cleaned.

In configuration, the Millet high-profile fixed-combat sights are superb. The rear sight has been adequately rounded and will not interfere with "tap, rack, bang" drills.

I usually don't mind a colored dot or two, or even three. When you're concentrating on that flash front sight picture under stress, you won't even see them. But this time Millet has gone out of control with their paint brush. Intricate white patterns confuse and distract the shooter, retarding response time. Fortunately, this geometric nightmare can be corrected with an aerosol can of flat black spray paint.

A 4.25-inch professionally throated Colt Mk.IV/Series 70 barrel has been fitted with a tight Micro-type bushing. More about that later. The recoil spring wraps around a full-length guide rod. It's supposed to increase spring life.

The extractor, firing pin, spring and stop are straight from the Colt M1911. Gratefully, Colt's Series 80 firing pin lock, a needless condescension to the whims of frightened attorneys, is nowhere to be seen.

Now to the magazine. Caspian Arms has provided us with the best magazine that

anyone ever slapped up a .45's well. The rounded steel follower will feed everything from ball to empty cases. Best of all, the floorplate is removable. Colt should have redesigned their magazine 50 years ago. You can buy all the spares you want, blued or stainless, for \$15 each. That's a bargain.

No disassembly instructions were provided, so this should be discussed briefly, particularly because the full-length guide rod alters the procedure somewhat.

Remove the magazine and clear the weapon. Retract the slide rearward until its disassembly notch is aligned with the slide stop's lug. Push the slide stop inward from the right side and remove. Separate the slide and frame groups by pushing the slide forward and off the frame. Using a .45 bushing wrench (preferably plastic to avoid marring the bushing), rotate the bushing clockwise 90 degrees. Place a finger tightly (very tightly) on the guide rod's plug before removing the bushing wrench or you may lose an eye. Carefully remove the plug. Pull the guide rod and recoil spring out from the rear. Turn the bushing back counter-clockwise 180 degrees and remove it by gently prying it out of the slide. Turn the link down and pull the barrel out from the front of the slide. Proceed as usual.

Reassemble in the reverse order. After the guide rod's plug is reinstalled from the front, the guide rod and recoil spring can be inserted from the rear. Be sure to slide the

end of the recoil spring with the smaller diameter over the guide rod before reassembly of these components.

We started our test firing of this pistol using a 185-grain copper-clad wadcutter bullet backed by 6.5 grains of Hercules Unique. This has proven to be a real loser and will not consistently feed through any Colt M1911 pistol I've ever attempted to stuff it into.

Although the Caspian Arms' feed ramp was not polished, it easily fed 25 rounds of this trash load. Another 25 rounds with a 230-grain cast roundnose bullet and still no problems.

Switching to G.I. ball (headstamped WCC 67' — Western Cartridge Co., 1967) at about round number 65, we experienced two failures to go into battery during the counter-recoil stroke. Movement of the reciprocating parts continued to become more sluggish. By round number 75, the slide traveled rearward and failed to return. End of test.

The problem? You can't install a tight, target-type bushing without relieving the barrel's diameter to the rear of its bearing surface at the muzzle. This lathe work was omitted and in just 75 rounds enough debris accumulated between the barrel and bushing to prevent the slide group from returning to battery. Completely unacceptable.

Our limited test indicated that the accuracy

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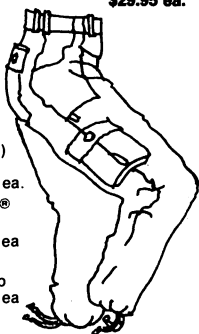
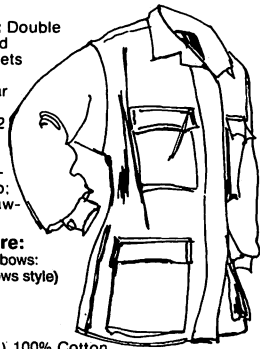
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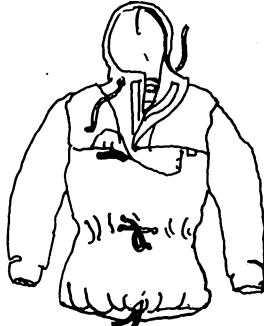
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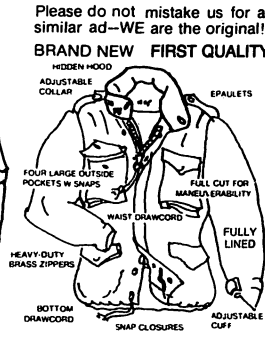


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cy potential was more than adequate, as one could expect with such a tightly fitted barrel bushing and frame-to-slide mating held to close tolerance. Weighing a hefty 38.5 ounces empty, felt recoil was minimal.

Endowed with an excellent slide and frame — when the so-called “Government” frame, sans finger groove and hooked trigger guard, is selected — Caspian Arms still needs to alter a number of components and improve their quality control before I would ever consider packing this piece. I understand they are committed to doing so. ✕

BATTLE BLADES

Continued from page 22

a heavy tool for heavy work and requires a certain amount of skill to use to best effect.

The general purpose machete was my favorite. The 18-inch blade is well balanced and gives the implement good leverage and near perfect swing weight. It clears brush with ease and makes light work out of cutting small firewood and kindling. Highly recommended for your knock-around camping gear.

The small bowie-style machete with its 13-inch blade is almost a cross be-

tween a fighting knife and a machete. At 10 ounces total weight it is simply too light to have real cutting power. But it makes up for that with speed. A man slashed in the forearm with this weapon may not lose the limb, though I'll bet he loses his will to fight.

But don't forget. First and foremost, the machete is a tool. When used as a weapon against a first rate battle blade, the longer machete comes up short. Its length makes it difficult to redirect once a stroke is started — the machete has no provision for a backstroke. The machete works well as an edged weapon under certain circumstances, especially if you have room to move. But you'd be better off to choose your cutlery according to its intended usage. Use the machete as a tool and look elsewhere for a weapon. ✕

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 17

Ambushing and mining were the two methods most commonly used. In the landmine war, there was a constant battle of wits as well. We laid TM-46 metallic mines captured from the terrorists — and FRELIMO engineers

lifted some of them. We added anti-lift devices — the Freds found them with magnetic mine detectors and blew them in place. We then got tricky by laying chaff (nails and scrap metal) to fool the engineers, and plastic mines with an internal device which would detonate the mine if a mine-detector passed over it. Twelve Fred engineers found these mines the hard way in the first week after their introduction, and looking for mines became very unpopular. Visual searches then became the detection method of choice, with engineers and infantrymen alike digging at every suspicious scrape on every road. We added a photocell to our mines which, when the digger exposed them to light, winked goodbye and went bang. We also developed an anti-prod feature using copper screen which deterred probing with either wooden or metal probes. By the end of this battle of wits, the enemy had resorted to building fires everywhere they thought there might be a mine, hoping that the heat would set it off. We had plans to counter that tactic too, but the end of the war made them unnecessary.

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MARCOS' BITTER LEGACY

Continued from page 53

forces appeared to have control, at least for the time being.

There was no sign of Cojuangco. I asked several people, who only shook their heads. Finally a woman came from a large mansion in the middle of the estate. "I am only a servant," she said in perfect English. "Nobody is here."

My continuing quest for Cojuangco took me down a side road to Hacienda Carmen Chica, one of the lesser estates, where I found a solitary PC sergeant in charge of six CHDF men. He was polite, but shook his head when I raised my camera to take a picture. A couple of his charges wandered out of a nearby hut, grinning, slinging their M16s casually. They laughed and mugged as I snapped off a few frames, but after I was back in my car, they walked up purposefully and asked what I wanted the pictures for. The smell of alcohol was strong on their breath. "No problem," I told them. "Souvenirs." We shook hands.

Down the coast road, at the "Task Force Sugarland" headquarters, I ran into the man who seemed responsible for the PC troopers I'd been encountering — Captain Sahiron Salim. At first, he denied the CHDF men were really members of private armies.

"They are volunteers defending their barrios," he said, slouching in a van beside an armored personnel carrier with the name "Peacemaker" painted on it. "They are serving people, protecting property," he said.

Actually, the military is caught in the middle — between the need to stay on the side of whoever holds the power and the constant danger of ambushes by the NPA.

"We called for the NPA to come down from the hills and surrender but nobody has surrendered," said army Lieutenant Rodel Calusin, stationed with a detachment in an inland town named Isabela. "We were ambushed and lost eleven soldiers and two dependents a month ago. Then one week ago six PC soldiers were killed. Obviously Benedicto and Cojuangco have private armies," he said. "But so far they are helping us. They are natives of this place."

Among the natives, though, the presence of the CHDF is hardly reassuring. Back down the road, I talked to a woman selling soft drinks at a roadside stand while a couple of local mechanics turned their talents to repairing the car — the victim of one pothole too many.

"General Ramos wants to wipe out the CHDF because they're the ones who make trouble," she said. "They get drunk. They steal pigs and goats from the farmers. The farmers know they must obey because they have Armalites. If you refuse, they hit you."

The mayhem wrought by the private armies in the guise of the CHDF is clearly a major reason why Marcos became an un-

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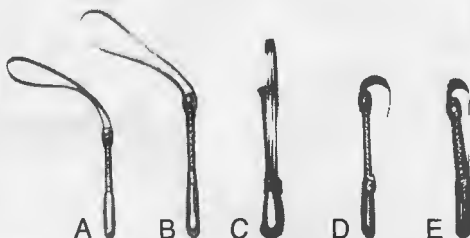
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popular figure here and in much of the rest of the country in his final years of rule.

"When people demonstrate against Marcos, Marcos' agents take their pictures," said Tony Villalana, a worker from the nearby town. "Then the PC or CHDF salvage them if they recognize them. After Marcos was toppled by Cory Aquino, there was no more salvaging."

A couple of other men joined in the conversation, their voices reflecting their relief over the end of the Marcos regime. "Marcos ordered the PC and CHDF to wipe out the people," said one. "They killed farmers. They scared people. They claimed they were NPA."

Worse was the corruption of the system the private armies were hired to support. Benedicto, controlling the sugar industry, issued only partial payments to planters and millers while sugar prices plummeted on world markets.

"The people here are starving." Another farmer added his thoughts. "The planters do not have enough money to give salaries to the workers." Most farmers got about 50 cents a day rather than the one dollar daily wage they were promised.

With the dreaded Benedicto and Cojuangco both gone, the only supercrony left is Armando Gustillo, for whom Marcos carved out the entire province of Negros del Norte as a payoff for his loyalty and services. I went to Cadiz, a forlorn town at the northern tip of the Negros island, hoping to meet the "governor," as he is known. The closest I got was his dutiful secretary, Mildred Terendo. Guards hastily slammed shut the gate to his estate after I entered.

"The CHDF are all gone," Ms. Terendo said. "His only bodyguards are his relatives, three nephews and two cousins. They're trying to paint a terrorist image of the governor," she went on. His estate bristled with watchtowers and radio antennae. Armed guards were visible through a hole in the gate on the drive leading to a mansion set in the middle of the grounds.

Back in the town, though, nobody really believed Gustillo had done away with the CHDF troopers who had defended him during the Marcos years. The troops are widely believed to have retreated to barracks hidden in the countryside.

"They are still fully armed under Gustillo," said Willie Descalsote, a political organizer for Aquino. "They will use this base to threaten people here in Cadiz. It is very dangerous here. We cannot sleep well at night."

No one here can forget the massacre of 20 September 1985. At Gustillo's behest, Army, PC and CHDF troops in the nearby town of Escalante fired into a mob of demonstrators, leaving 20 dead and 28 wounded. Atrocities like this nurture already fertile recruiting ground for the communists.

"I was protecting the Bayan," a front often identified with the communists, said a student I encountered outside Cadiz. "I was wounded there and in a hospital for 40 days." He was wearing sunglasses and car-

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rying a backpack. My driver suspected that he was off to volunteer for the NPA.

Down a road paved with rocks was Hacienda Imelda, named for Marcos' free-spending wife. Gustillo's forces were reported to hang out there, ready to protect him when he called.

Back in Bacolod, the fiery Catholic Bishop Antonio Fortich recalled distributing blood to the victims of Escalante.

"Cory has pledged justice to those who were massacred," he said. "The people said the CHDF from Cadiz fired on them." He was confident General Ramos was trying to shut down the private armies, but he acknowledged that the new government was finding it hard to dismantle them. Bishop Fortich estimated that more than 1,000 CHDF troops still guarded the haciendas.

According to Bishop Fortich, the confrontation deepened with thousands of NPA sympathizers playing upon the misery of farmers and laborers slaving away for a pittance — if they were lucky enough to have a job. "There will be more and more robberies, killings and all that," he predicted. "And if Ramos cannot round up all the loose guns from the CHDF, how can you run after them? We are up for very serious trouble." The demise of Marcos has deprived the NPA of the slogan, 'Fight the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship,' he observed, "so now they focus on 'U.S. imperialism.'"

Safe in his fortress in Cadiz, Gustillo, no longer governor, maintains that he is ready to stand trial for Escalante — and challenges anyone to call him a "terrorist" or "warlord."

"There are people who say I have been a terrorist," he observed on a videotape shown me by an aide. "There are lawless elements and NPA who want to eradicate my image." The problem, he insists, "is the same as in Vietnam: We follow the rules of the right to live in a democracy. The communists follow their own rules." ✕

BEIRUT

Continued from page 59

in the open, away from the dreary confines of the ruined HQ, an awesome scene unfolded. Behind us, to the north, towered the remains of the old Toshiba building, its huge neon sign peppered with bullet holes. Ahead was the twice life-size statue in the center of Martyr's Square, rusted from neglect, its three figures riddled with bullet holes.

Some brave — or crazed — Christian militiaman had risked life and limb by rushing across the open field to the statue, clambering to the top and placing an LF flag on the outstretched arm of one of the figures. The deed must surely have been done under cover of darkness. No one could remember.

In better days, the statue in Martyr's Square was a proud reminder of the Lebanese struggle against the Ottoman Turks. Many people died fighting the Turks on 6 May 1916 and their sacrifice is commemorated by the statue. Now it is just another target in Beirut's shooting gallery.

The militiamen moved into position. With the launcher resting comfortably on his shoulder, the RPGist motioned the accompanying riflemen to flank him on either side. On signal, the soldier on the left rose and fired two long bursts from his M16 toward the sniper. The RPG round roared out of its tube and slammed into the sniper nest as the remaining two riflemen opened up.

Exchanging smiles and words of congratulations, the soldiers moved in a half-crouch back to the security of the CP. The back-slapping was premature. With a roar and a fountain of dirt and rocks, the front edge of the protective berm trembled under the fury of a returning RPG round. A few AK bullets slapped the rocks to remind us that it would take more than a quick fusillade to silence Amal. After a few tense moments pinned down behind the berm, the militiamen made it back to the command post.

Beirut seems to be custom-made for seeking shelter from this kind of war. Many buildings are solidly made of reinforced concrete with little glass. Even a direct hit from heavy artillery fails to pulverize the target. An RPG does little more than spray dust and debris over the inhabitants inside. The odd round that passes through a window is a rude exception. Most LF positions were sandbagged, with only a deep sniper slit opening on the Muslim side of the Green Line. But even given that precaution, wise men paused for only a moment in front of the tiny windows — a well-trained enemy sniper could put a bullet through a careless soldier if the light was right.

Their excitement over, the militiamen settled back into a soldierly pastime known throughout history: waiting. Fighting occurs on the Green Line daily, but not in every sector. The soldier who had fired the RPG sat down on a concrete block, trying in vain to wipe the blackened powder spots from the backblast off his face. A grey smear was all he got for his efforts. The other soldiers climbed out of their combat harnesses and settled into small groups for a little friendly conversation.

More RPG explosions drew me south along the line to see more. There was less cover. Gaps between buildings were filled with the ubiquitous dirt berms, sandbag trenches and sand-filled 55-gallon drums. My guide, two soldiers and I moved cautiously, darting quickly across the more open areas and taking it easy inside the ruined buildings.

Amal was aware of our presence. They took pains to remind us of that.

Creeping in a single, well-spaced file behind a wall of rusted metal oil drums, we had almost made it to the next command

post. Then the metallic slap of bullets pattering along the far side of the drums scattered us. One or two bullets found their way through the tiny cracks between barrels, but no harm was done.

Rounding another corner in the concrete jungle put us in the midst of a second squad of LF militiamen occupying Alpha Sector. This stronghold was in a spacious chamber, perhaps an old store house of some sort, with the same mix of AKs and the usual plethora of RPGs. Three flights of shattered stairs climbed into almost total darkness, emerging into a tiny closet lined with moldy sandbags and a lone Browning .50-cal. M2 machine gun. Its black barrel pointed accusingly at an abandoned mosque a few hundred meters into the Muslim sector. Stumbling up a few more flights of rubble-choked stairs, I was stunned by the sudden burst of sunlight that flooded the top floor of the building. Small wonder — the ceiling had been pierced by artillery rounds.

A lone sentry guarded the rooftop against snipers. He seemed glad to see a visitor. He jabbered at me in Arabic, then grabbed me for a dash across the roof, zig-zagging toward a low barricade. A short dive, a little slithering to wedge our bodies up next to the sandbags and we were in position. The soldier pointed his FAL through a jagged hole in the wall and unleashed a stream of 7.62mm rounds into the window of a building across the barren field.

"Palestinians," he whispered with a smile.

Then I noticed the building he was shooting at was five or six stories taller than the rooftop we were on. At worst we were sitting ducks for a Palestinian sniper, at best we could be pinned down with well-placed fire. My short, quick dash back to the stairwell seemed to be in tortuously slow motion.

Sunset painted the ghostly urban ruins an eerie orange along the Green Line. Darkness descends quickly here, and with it comes the real fighting. Soldiers on both sides of the Green Line come home from their jobs, take up arms and move into positions facing the enemy. Most of the Christians in the Beirut front live near the sector they fight in and they serve without pay. "It is enough that we fight for our right to live free," said a Christian militia machine gunner as he cleaned his FN MAG in anticipation of the coming nighttime firefight.

When the darkness obscured the wreckage of the Green Line, the militiamen keyed up their senses and reflexes. Behind them east Beirut was lit up like the skyline of any city the world over, a macabre backdrop of normalcy behind the eternal battle on the Green Line.

"We may be lucky tonight. The Palestinian soldiers in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps have an ongoing battle with the Shi'ite militias that surround them. When that happens, they leave us alone; we sit back and watch the show." A bearded soldier pointed to the fireworks that erupted from the ground a few thousand meters to

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our front. Red tracers from heavy machine guns arced back and forth in a mad dance, the sound hitting us in a solid wall of continuous explosions.

Unity is not something the Arabs are known for. The various Muslim militias owe their allegiance to many masters. Syria, Libya and Iran are the major money men behind the Muslim mayhem unleashed on Lebanon. But try as they might, it seems impossible to completely control their fanatic charges. Historical, religious and political animosities have combined to keep them at each others throats as often as at the Christians.

Because the Palestinians are relative newcomers to Lebanon's cauldron, they are often blamed — by both sides — for the country's problems. And they are a convenient scapegoat. The Palestinians regard Lebanon as a temporary haven on the march to reclaiming their homeland in Palestine and they have acquired an arrogance and contempt for the Lebanese, often acting like marauders simply passing through on a journey of conquest. Mao Tse Tung would not be amused by their un-guerrilla-like tactics.

The hopes of the Christian militiamen for spending a peaceful evening as spectators of the war were shattered by an RPG round that arched lazily over an empty lot and slammed into a dead tree between two buildings. Flames crackled to life, bathing the soldiers in a flickering glow. Concrete walls became a shadow-puppet theater as silhouettes of soldiers and weapons danced across the surface.

"It's nothing." The soldier's face reinforced his calm voice. "Amal sends us many messages to remind us that they are still thinking of us." Not a single soldier even twitched at the explosion. I couldn't help wondering if these men had perhaps become too lax. Most of them seemed secure in what they considered a firm understanding of the predictability of this war.

To my way of thinking, that attitude could be fatal. I continued to duck whenever a round landed close by.

Other distractions broke up the night fighting. It was the week of the World Cup soccer championships. France was playing Brazil. Most of the soldiers were betting on the French, although there were some heated discussions as to which was the better team. Following an electrical extension cord strung across the dirt, I wound my way into what passed for a lounge in an abandoned five-story apartment building. A few militiamen sat in front of an old television cheering the French team on to victory while others ate dinner. Upstairs, the loud chatter of an FN MAG kept the war going. Beirut's world of contrasts never failed to amaze me.

"We hope the electricity doesn't go out." The soldier was referring to one of Lebanon's quirks, an electrical and telephone system with a maddening reputation for unreliability. "If it goes out, the Muslims will blame us for ruining their soccer

game and will shell the Christian sector." Fortunately, France went on to the semi-finals and east Beirut was spared a brutal artillery bombardment.

A new day dawned the next morning, but the war remained the same. Lebanon continues to fight for some murky identity by sacrificing that which it seems to hold in lowest esteem: human life. Heavy weapons crash and rumble daily throughout the country. Never mind that much of it is fired blindly and that the weapons are overly heavy for the kind of urban fighting found in Beirut. The result is many unnecessary casualties — figures show that only about 10 percent of those maimed and killed are combatants. Militias on both sides rarely see each other as they duel from a distance. But that's the way events in the area have gone for centuries. The Arabs say *Maktoub*, which means "that which is written." Westerners also have a word for it — fatalism.

Perhaps the war on the Green Line is a microcosm of the region's barely suppressed tendency toward total violence. And on the wildly pitching deck of the Middle East, Lebanon is surely its loose cannon. ☒

DEZINFORMATSIA

Continued from page 75

ordered the Wehrmacht to go after the Partisans and Chetniks at once, hoping to wipe

them out prior to an Allied landing in Europe. Tito then sent a delegation to the local German command. Tito's delegation made three offers: (1) a prisoner exchange, (2) a truce which would allow the Germans to focus exclusively in that area on the Chetniks, and (3) an agreement for the Partisans to aid the Germans should Allied forces attempt a landing on the Adriatic coast.

The local German command recommended the deal, but Hitler refused. Had he accepted, Tito was prepared to use supplies he had received from the Allies against Allied troops. But Hitler ordered a renewed offensive against the Partisans. Many Allied intelligence officers subsequently misinterpreted the action that ensued, thinking that Tito's Partisans had initiated an offensive against the Germans. In reality, Tito had ordered his forces to limit their actions as much as possible in 1943. This order stood until September 1944. In the meantime, most of Tofte's arms shipments were stockpiled for later use against the non-communist Chetniks.

The McDowell Report

Despite the successful disinformation effort against him and his dramatic change of fortune, Mihailovic kept his allegiance to the West. Abandonment by the British made him bitter, though, and he looked more to the United States for help. British and American liaison missions were long gone from his headquarters. But in Allied intelligence — especially at OSS headquarters in Bari, Italy — some remained skeptical of Partisan claims. These people, including U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Robert McDowell, advocated U.S. neutrality in the Partisan/Chetnik conflict.

McDowell, a specialist in Balkan affairs and former university professor, was responsible for analyzing intelligence in that area. Because he spoke the language and had 25 years experience in the Balkans, McDowell noticed subtle discrepancies in Partisan intelligence reports. Among the discrepancies were the following:

- Partisan claims of having the same unit engaged at the same time at locations hundreds of miles apart.
- The same general areas being repeatedly "liberated" by the communists.
- Returning intel officers who reported that the Partisans were receiving credit for Chetnik military ops.

Convinced that Partisan intelligence was worthless, McDowell lobbied to have an American intel team inserted into Chetnik territory. Brit spooks were adamantly opposed, arguing that it would upset Tito. But McDowell won out. He was assigned by OSS head "Wild Bill" Donovan to parachute with three other Serbian-speaking OSS officers into Chetnik territory for an independent assessment of the situation.

Soldier of Fortune has obtained one of only seven copies made of their report, which was classified Top Secret. It reveals U.S. government knowledge as early as November of 1944 of Partisan duplicity with the communists. No action was taken,

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the report states, because the State Department and the British Foreign Office decided to abandon Mihailovich and his Chetniks in favor of his communist opponent, Tito.

Seldom has an intelligence gathering mission been so well suited to its task. McDowell was particularly qualified to analyze events and place them in historic context. He also had the advantage of freedom of movement because of his language fluency. Finally, as a result of extensive experience in writing for scholarly journals, he was able to organize his material in a cogent fashion rarely found in military documents.

The McDowell team looked at charges of alleged collaboration between the Chetniks and the Germans. McDowell states in the report that prior to his mission he "was inclined to believe that a degree of collaboration (existed) between the Germans and certain Serb nationalists leaders, and that General Mihailovic tacitly accepted this situation."

However, "no evidence whatsoever was obtained which supported" that allegation, McDowell wrote. "There was ample evidence that the General, the field commanders, and the Nationalist political leaders were filled with a burning hatred for the Germans much beyond that held by British and Americans."

McDowell's findings also indicated that Tito's communist Partisans had received much undue credit for fighting Germans. "In all communities visited, the mission found a widespread belief among Nationalists that Partisan troops rarely if ever seriously attacked German troops or installations. . . . It was insisted that from 1941 on, the principal military objective of the Partisans has been to attack and destroy nationalist resistance among Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes."

In addition to the indirect assistance Partisan attacks on the Chetniks may have given the Germans, McDowell also documented examples of direct aid as well. McDowell's report states that Tito's communists worked with the Germans in the early days of occupation, even encouraging citizens and soldiers *not* to resist. Only after Hitler attacked Russia did the communists head for the hills to fight the Nazis, McDowell said, adding that in many instances Nationalists were turned in to Nazis by Partisans before and after the invasion of Russia.

Probably most important, however, was McDowell's confirmation that the Partisans were systematically falsifying news reports of their activities. He cited several examples in which the BBC and the Voice of America credited the communist Partisans with operations which never took place or which had been conducted by the Chetniks.

McDowell concluded that "a deliberate policy of falsification of news and documents" had been undertaken by Tito's forces, and that "the Allies have shown themselves naive in accepting Partisan claims."

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McDowell's report, which ran some 37 single-spaced typewritten pages, caused an immediate uproar when it reached Donovan at OSS headquarters. Partisan supporters within OSS tried to discredit McDowell, claiming that his mission was a plot intended to destroy the "democratic resistance" forces under Tito and restore the monarchy after the war.

Unfortunately the potential impact of the report was overshadowed by Churchill's decision that Tito was the legitimate democratic resistance leader. Already committed to Tito, Churchill was unwilling to reverse himself. Nurtured by seeds of mistrust and disinformation planted by communist agents and sympathizers like Burgess, Klugman, Cranston and Adamic, this inflexibility helped deliver another country into the clutches of communism. ✕

BULLETIN BOARD

Continued from page 6

units such as, among others, the Army's Special Forces, the Navy's SEALs, the Delta Force and other JSOC assets. It would report directly to the National Security Council.

Despite renewed interest in recent decades in unconventional, low-intensity warfare, special ops units still get relatively short shrift from Pentagon planners, who are preoccupied with nuclear deterrence and large conventional wars like those fought 50 years ago. And surprise of surprises, the Pentagon opposes this move to take special operations units away from their respective service branches and put them under a separate independent command with civilian leadership. As a compromise, the White House may support a Senate proposal to place all special operations forces under a unified command within the Pentagon.

Don't hold your breath for any decisive action, however. ✕

FLAK

Continued from page 8

After eight years of readership, I'd like to say that the August '86 Libya special has to be one of your best. The articles on Libya and its deranged leader are superb. I always read SOF from cover-to-cover, but the information in the August issue required second and, in some cases, third readings. Please keep it up, for without SOF we would be at the mercy of the pablum media.

Joe R. Peters II
Grants Pass, Oregon



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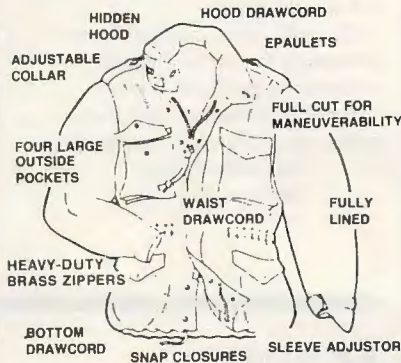
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Once again you have out-done yourselves with the Libya special. Being active-duty Navy and just having spent 2½ years on a carrier, you covered all bases in the bonus coverage of Libya.

Another well-done article was "French Naval Commandos." During my tours in the Med I drank with some of the combat swimmers while on liberty in Toulon, France. It has been almost a year since my last major deployment and your article brought back some memorable times.

Name and address withheld

The editors thought our readers would get a kick out of this next one.

I took offense at your rotten racist attitude toward Col. Khadaffi in the August issue. Col. Khadaffi is a beautiful human being who stands for everything good in mankind and for freedom of oppressed people everywhere. I'm proud to say that he and the good, brave Libyan people are my friends.

You rotten Americans have nothing to brag about. Any fool knows that a superpower such as the U.S. could devastate any small country such as Libya. Why don't you start something with Russia and see how far you get? Because the very thought of fighting another superpower scares the Americans so badly they urinate on themselves.

All you men should wish you were half the man Col. Khadaffi is. American men are a bunch of cowards, wimps, and beer drinking rednecks. They show their bravery by molesting children and beating women. A lot of American men can't even get their wives pregnant. How's that for the macho American male.

The only reason I bought this magazine was because you had some good photos of Col. Khadaffi in it.

Ms. Frances Geczi
Palatka, Florida

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Sirs:

An organization had drop-shipped me a BuckMaster for evaluation just before intended issuance to their personnel. Impressive at first glance, close examination proved otherwise. The guard quillion anchors had me laughing. How ridiculous. The second major drawback was the

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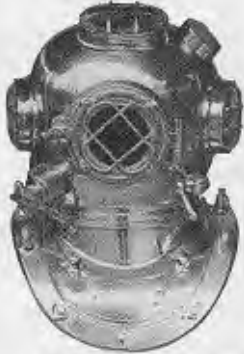
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absolutely poor balance of the overly-thick blade. The crowning touch was the round handle which is far too unstable and impractical in the hand's grasp.

Bagwell did a masterful job in reviewing this poor piece of sensationalism from Buck. Congratulations for his excellent article and to you for printing it.

Karl Bosselmann
Sedona, Arizona

BONING UP ON PT...

Sirs:

I am an active-duty Marine who is getting short. When I complete this tour, I intend to join the Army and go Ranger and eventually, SF. I am having a problem getting solid information on the physical/academic programs for those respective schools, especially in the area of PT. Army recruiters haven't been much help. If possible, could you all steer me to a good source?

James E. Johnson
Santa Ana, California

As far as PT goes, don't worry about any specific program — simply get yourself into good shape. Go into Ranger training realizing that winning the battle is mostly in your head. Lack of sleep and food are the toughest obstacles to overcome and both of those are simply a matter of willpower. But if you must talk to someone about specifics, drop a line to Ft. Lewis, Washington or Ft. Benning, Georgia. I'm sure the Ranger instructors there will be able to help you.

KNIFE FORUM...

Sirs:

Bill Bagwell's column is the best of its kind. Having owned two of Bill's bowie knives for several years I can tell you they do perform as advertised.

SSG James Knickerbocker
Edwards AFB, California

The criticism of Bagwell is, in part, that he pushes Damascus steel knives which are unavailable to the majority of us due to cost. The February '85 issue of *Scientific American* contains an article on Damascus steel which explains that it

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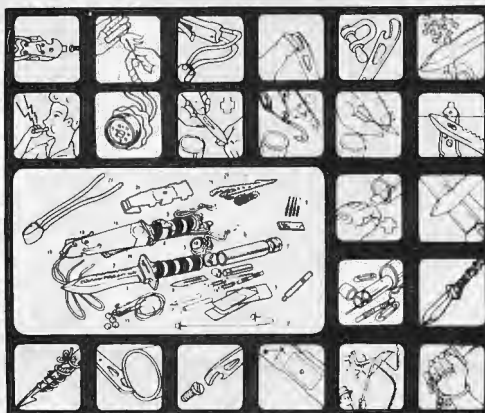
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can be made by modern steel-making plants. When will mass-produced Damascus steel knives be available?

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The type of Damascus steel that is currently being made by modern steel-making plants, Wootz steel, serves an industrial application such as in the making of automotive gears. This process produces a different kind of steel and its narrow focus does not lend itself to mass production of Damascus steel blades. It'll be a while before the technology permits us mass-produced Damascus steel knives of the quality of the handmade ones.

Bill Bagwell has misrepresented the facts about the Japanese sword. (See April '86, Battle Blades.) As a collector and merchant of Japanese swords I know how easy it is to fall into the trap of mysticism. But the Japanese sword is only as magical as the practitioner who imparts his skill to the blade. Considering that making and using a Japanese sword was the swordsmith's and warrior's life it is not surprising they were so well made.

There are numerous conflicts in Bagwell's article. Japanese tanto's are from 6 to 12 inches long by Japanese definition, not 11 to 16 inches as he claims. And seppuku rituals were carried out with the wakizashi, the medium sword, not the tanto. Aikuchi were carried by women and old men as they desired. Rank was not considered a prerequisite to possessing a blade of this type. Rank was who you were, not what you carried.


Totally misleading is the statement that kwaiken were made with double edges. There are no known existing examples of a double-sided kwaiken.

Older men died with their swords at their sides. They didn't revert to the effeminate kwaiken or aikuchi unless they wanted to. They had wakizashi or tanto with them as a standard accessory weapon.

Better that Bagwell stick to making and selling knives than quoting Japanese weapons history inaccurately.

Steven Winkley
West Jordan, Utah

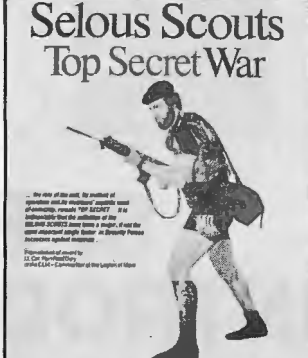
If there is a knife that is appropriate for both survival and combat, it is the machete. In most jungles it is used to chop trees and brush. And given its sharpness it can easily remove a hand of an attacker. The only thing it may not open is a can of beans. Compared to some of



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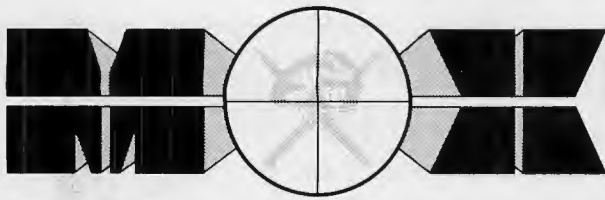
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L. Shepard
Jacksonville, Florida

Discover how Bill Bagwell tackles the topic of machetes in this month's Battle Blades column on page 22. ✂

COMMAND GUIDANCE

Continued from page 2

in President Reagan's policy with regard to Nicaragua and South Africa, but the real double standard lies with them. On the one hand, they say the United States is out of line when it imposes sanctions against the despotic regime in Managua. On the other hand, we have a "moral obligation" to overturn the system of apartheid.

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And it serves to show what our elite in the media and academia think about foreign policy. On the one hand they allow totalitarian regimes like the Soviet Union to make alliances based only on strategic necessity, while the United States is permitted to ally itself only with those countries that are democratic, have outstanding human rights records and are racially integrated.

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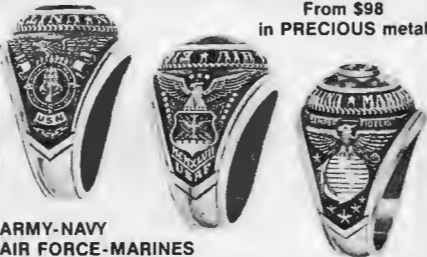


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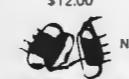


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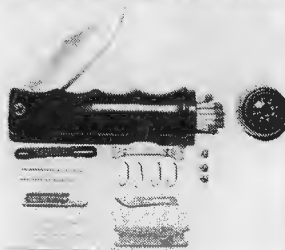
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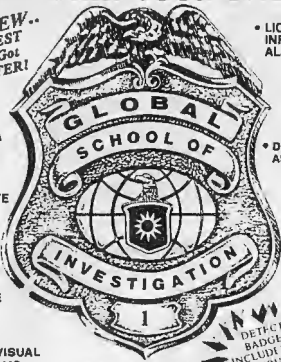
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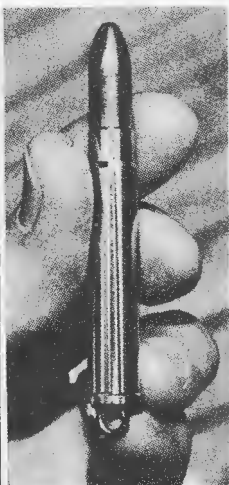
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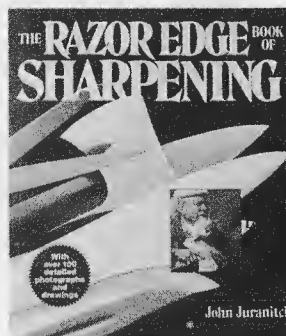
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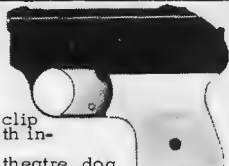
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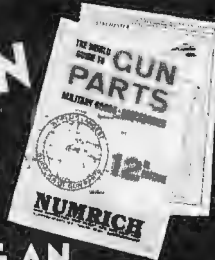
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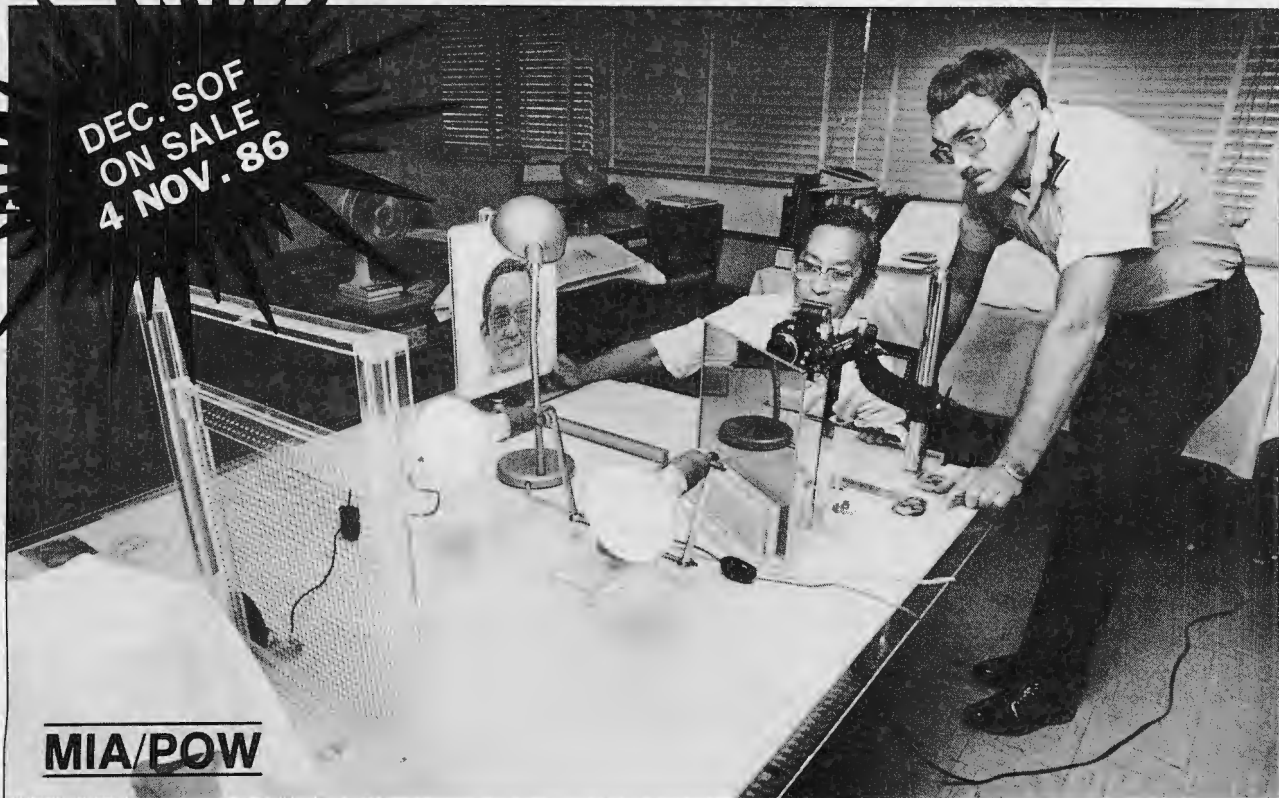
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MIGS



● **POW/MIA UPDATE** — This is one issue we won't let go of until it's resolved. SOF stays on the front lines of the POW/MIA battle with SOF Associate Editor Jim Pate's continuing investigation of the Army's Central Identification Lab. We've shown that the CIL's methods of identifying remains of U.S. servicemen recovered from Vietnam are unsound; now what are they trying to cover up? Or is the Army's own investigation being stopped at the highest levels of government? We'll tell you next month.

● **CHRISTIAN SAILORS** — Ride with the navy of the Lebanese Forces as they patrol the Mediterranean coast in search of Muslim terrorists and clandestine arms shipments. The task is not an easy one — secret arms drops at night on the coast of Muslim-held west Beirut and infiltrating Palestinian terrorists keep the Christian navy on the move. How good are they? Find out in next month's SOF.

● **SEALS IN VIETNAM** — Everyone knows that the U.S. Navy SEALs came out of the Vietnam War with a reputation for fierceness and tenacity. But what about some of the individual exploits that led to that reputation? SOF will tell you about Petty Officer Frank Thornton and how he won five Bronze Stars and one Silver Star during fighting in the Mekong Delta.

● **THE LATEST IN MIGS** — The Soviets have done something new. Instead of cloaking their newest weapons in secrecy, Moscow has put the latest Soviet fighter aircraft, the MiG-29 Fulcrum, on display for the world to see. SOF gives you statistics on the performance and capabilities of this new jet.

● **BOAT BUSTERS** — Fly back to World War II's Pacific Theater in a Marine Corps PBJ and scan the islands for Japanese shipping. SOF recounts what it was like to swoop in and kill merchant ships in the fight to rid the Pacific of Japanese invaders. ✕

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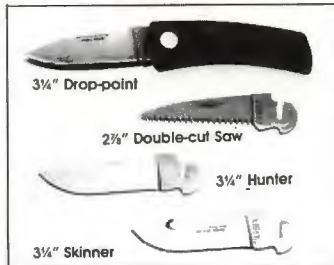
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